



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Bahrain-Qatar Dispute Postpones GCC Meetings

NC2907183091 Paris AFP in English 1817 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Riyadh, July 29 (AFP)—Two meetings of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) scheduled for Tuesday will be postponed as a result of a lingering dispute between two GCC members, Qatar and Bahrain. Western diplomats said Monday. But officials at the GCC—which also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates—said a meeting in Riyadh on Tuesday of finance ministers will be postponed because of an unsuitable timing.

Another meeting of GCC experts devoted to environmental issues will also be set aside, they said. Similarly, GCC deputy foreign ministers failed to meet on July 23 and no alternate date has been announced.

Western diplomatic sources blamed these delays in the "rising tension" between Qatar and Bahrain over the disputed islands which has already prompted Doha to lodge a complaint with the International Court of Justice at The Hague.

Oman urged international arbitration on July 8, saying Qatar should have sovereignty over Hawar islands and Fasht al-Dibal, a coral reef located midway between the two Gulf states.

In 1986, Qatari military forces raided Fasht al-Dibal and seized 29 foreign workers who were constructing a Bahraini coastguard station on the island. The workers were subsequently released and efforts were launched to defuse the tension. But the conflict has resurfaced amid Qatar's concern that Fasht al-Dibal lies 15 kilometers (nine miles) from the North Dome gasfields which hold proven reserves of more than 150 trillion cubic feet of gas—enough to meet Qatari demands for 100 years.

The diplomatic sources said that after Qatar's latest bid with The Hague, the Saudi government sought again to defuse the growing tension because Riyadh "fears that the conflict could have a negative impact on GCC cooperation."

Arab League Calls for UN Action Against Israel

NC3007111591 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1020 GMT
30 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Today the Arab League expressed its deep concern over the inhuman Israeli violations of human rights in the occupied Arab territories and called on all governments and peoples in the world to intervene immediately to quickly end the suffering of the Palestinian people, who are facing the worst type of torture in the world.

In a statement he issued today, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Isamat 'Abd-al-Majid called on the United

Nations to immediately send a fact-finding mission to the occupied Arab territories to verify the inhuman and arbitrary measures practiced by Israel against the Arab Palestinian people. The statement said: At a time when we are continuing the sincere peace efforts to achieve lasting stability and peace in the Middle East, Israel has not understood the evolving world reality, has not extended its hand for peace, has not stopped its settlement activities in the occupied Arab territories, and has not helped to ease the suffering and injustice faced by the heroic Palestinian people inside the occupied territories who are suffering from the ugliest types of inhuman treatment.

The statement noted the report issued yesterday by Amnesty International which said that there are clear indications that the trials of Palestinian civilians before military courts in the occupied territories are not fair and that Israel is practicing its repressive policy against innocent civilians in the belief that the Palestinians are isolated from the outside world.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Note to Moscow Summit Seeks 'Guarantees'

JN2907184291 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1720 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The Palestinian leadership has been holding meetings in Tunis since last Thursday to discuss the expected peace conference. Today, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the PLO Information Department, asserted that during these meetings, the Palestinian leadership has defined the ideas which express its position and that these ideas were communicated through PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's official message to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and the Soviet-U.S. summit in Moscow, which is to start officially tomorrow.

'Abd-Rabbuh also affirmed that the Palestinian leadership will remain in session to await replies from the summit. He added that the 'Arafat message contains a request from the PLO to the summit to present international guarantees that the objective of the peace conference will be Israel's complete withdrawal from the occupied territory, including Jerusalem, and the attainment of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. 'Abd-Rabbuh noted that the positive Palestinian response to the U.S. proposals is related to the Moscow summit's positive response to these Palestinian demands.

PFLP Seeks Independent Palestinian Role

NC2907195491 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] In a statement released in Damascus, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) has called for Palestinian participation in the peace conference

through an independent delegation. The PFLP said no one has the right to relinquish independent Palestinian representation.

'Arafat on Jerusalem, Palestinian National Rights

LD2907215891 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] This afternoon in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received the Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Mr. Habib Ben Yahia, minister of foreign affairs, and Mr. Hakem Bal'awi, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat expressed his pleasure at meeting President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali in these conditions, important and decisive for the future, which the Arab nation is experiencing. He added that he informed his excellency the president about all the details concerning the development of the question, especially following the political steps undertaken by the United States with the Soviet Union and the EEC to hold a Middle East conference.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat stressed the importance of preserving the national rights of the Palestinian people, foremost among which is Jerusalem city. He stressed that there is no way that the issue of this holy city could be absent; this is in line with President Bush's 6 March initiative regarding the establishment of peace in the Middle East.

Peace Conference Hinges on Shamir's Reply

TA2407151591 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 23 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Baker and the Anticipated Israeli Response With No Deadline"]

[Text] Among the terms that Secretary Baker used at his news conference in the King David Hotel yesterday to describe the current political opportunity was "a historic, real, and unique" opportunity to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and resolve the Palestinian problem after 43 years of Israel's "waiting" for just such an opportunity to bring about direct Arab-Israeli talks. These talks, according to the U.S. secretary himself, are to take place immediately upon the conclusion of the proposed peace conference's opening or introductory session.

But this opportunity, which in the U.S. political statement about the Middle East is called more decisive and conducive to greater optimism than others, now hinges on the Israeli response, which Washington is awaiting. Baker left the region, ending his fifth trip, with this fresh expectation.

Baker said that Washington is awaiting with great hope an early response from Yitzhaq Shamir's government. He left behind four of his skilled aides, who are acquainted with the issue, to provide this government with further clarifications and to explain every point in

the U.S. proposals. In order not to shut the door on which he had knocked so loudly, Baker clearly said that he may return for a sixth visit to the region. All this, he says, depends on the expected Israeli response in the coming days.

Hence, not only the ball itself is in the Israeli court, but apparently the entire political game is now in Shamir's hands. Either the peace conference will actually materialize with Israeli consent, or the whole plan will fail with Israeli rejection.

Is such a strange outcome logical? And can international legitimacy, which is represented by the United States and which is the basis on which Baker's shuttle is moving, be shoved into a corner by Shamir's yes or no?

Baker has frankly stated that the U.S. Administration will not pressure Shamir's government. At the same time, it has not set a deadline for the Israeli response. What will happen now to all those explicit terms, such as a historic, real, and unique opportunity in this familiar Middle East?

Lack of Unified Arab Position Criticized

TA2407174491 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 23 Jul 91 p 7

[Editorial: "What is Required on the Arab and Palestinian Levels"]

[Text] Political developments in the Middle East are moving at an unprecedented pace. One after another, the Arab states are declaring their acceptance of U.S. President George Bush's proposals, including the principle of direct negotiations with Israel, and are adopting practical steps toward this end.

The American moves enjoy the support of all the European countries, the Soviet Union, Japan, and Canada as well as the backing of the Arab states. In light of the upcoming meeting between U.S. President Bush and President Mikhail Gorbachev at the end of this month, it would not be surprising if the two countries were to agree on operational procedures, including issuing invitations to the parties involved in the conflict to attend a peace conference under Soviet-U.S. chairmanship.

The questions for the Arab states are: Where is a joint Arab stance toward these developments? What about the Palestinian problem and the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights? Why have you failed until this very day to reaffirm the resolutions of consecutive Arab summits relating to the Palestinian problem?

These are critical questions in critical times. Even if all the Arab states were to decide to deal with the U.S. moves, the adoption of unified positions on the Palestinian problem will enhance the Arab stance or the stance of each Arab state separately.

The Palestinian people look forward to a just, comprehensive, and balanced peace. The PLO has put forward a

strategic peace initiative since 1988—an initiative endorsed by the Arab states. Concern for peace means preparation, creation of strong joint positions, and formulation of a unified strategy. All these things are almost absent from the Arab policy arenas.

The Arab states are required to lay the firm foundations of a unified Arab stance based on international legitimacy, Arab summit resolutions, and supreme Arab interests. Long and bitter experience has proved that peace must be established on the basis of solving the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, ensuring the achievement of the Palestinian people's national rights, foremost of which the right to self-determination.

The Palestinians are called upon to unify their ranks, consolidate national unity, and engage in objective dialogue. Any failure in these matters will lead to unfavorable consequences. The coming days will see many developments, and responsibilities are growing. Let us meet these responsibilities.

Israelis Said Seeking 'No' Through Palestinians

TA2607170191 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
25 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Sirhan al-Salayimah article: "Israel Wants to Say No to Baker, but Through the Palestinians"]

[Text] Yitzhak Shamir and his ministers could no longer resist the American view maintaining that the Syrian response to the Bush-Baker proposals was unexpectedly positive. Israel found itself obliged to repeat the same tune and by the same words: "The Syrian position is positive." Shamir went even further by saying that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad has the same characteristics as the deceased Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat: "brave in war and brave in peace." The Syrian president agreed—with Arab generosity—to everything that Washington asked for and did not place any precondition on talks with Israel. Syria even failed to obtain an explicit assurance from Washington that the Golan Heights, which is 100 percent Syrian territory, will be returned to Syria, even indirectly. Washington's message included the following two principles for a political solution in the Middle East:

1. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which stipulate Israel's withdrawal from "Arab lands" that it occupied in 1967.
2. Land for peace.

Naturally, those two principles are subject to a series of various interpretations. Israel rejects the second principle and considers the first one not applicable to what remains of the occupied Arab lands: Sinai was the "lands" and Israel has withdrawn from it. In short, Israel, in light of the new "positive" Syrian position—which it did not seek in the first place—has begun looking for new political loopholes by which it can foil the convocation of a peace conference. Where will it find

an effective loophole? In the Egyptian position, which is totally merged with the U.S. position? Or in the Saudi position, in particular, and the Gulf states in general? No one is left but the Palestinians. Israel can break up the conference through them, or at worst prevent its convocation. How?

Israel knows precisely the Palestinian red lines that no one can cross: the right to self-determination; the makeup of the Palestinian delegation or a Palestinian-Jordanian delegation, if agreement is reached on its makeup between the PLO and Jordan; the PLO's role; who will name the delegation's members; the issue of Jerusalem; and the participation of a representative from Jerusalem in any negotiations.

Now Israel cannot say "no," but it wants others to say "no" because it knows that the convocation of a peace conference will ultimately lead to something Israel does not desire. Israel, therefore, is wagering on the Palestinian position. It wants the Palestinians to say "no," so that no one will point fingers at Israel and accuse it of wasting a historic opportunity offered by the Arabs. Israel is pushing the Palestinians by force onto the path of "no." Israel is saying that it must choose the Palestinian delegation that will participate in the negotiations—diplomatically, of course. It wants the right to veto any of the Palestinian figures; it does not want the delegation to include any Jerusalemite; it does not want anyone from outside the occupied territories; and it does not want anyone whom it believes is affiliated with the PLO or who says that the PLO assigned him to participate in the negotiations in its name.

That is Israel's declared and clear position, and that is what it actually wants, but we also believe Israel knows that none of those demands will ever be met unless the PLO agrees to them. Israel knows that no delegation will say "yes" or "no" except through instructions from the PLO. The PLO was and continues to be the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. That point represents the common denominator of all Palestinians, even if they differ on other matters. The Palestinians will say "yes" or "no" only on the basis of the Palestinian people's national interests. As to the Israeli Government, experience has taught us that it will say "no" in practice even though the Israeli response to the U.S. Administration might be "yes" in theory.

PLO Urged To Stop Dealing With Baker Plan

TA2907103291 Jerusalem AL-TALF AH in Arabic
25 Jul 91 p 3

[Article by editor in chief Bashir al-Barghuthi: "Before You Enter the Dark Tunnel"]

[Excerpts] Day after day, with the hour of decision approaching, the error of the policy pursued by the PLO leadership in dealing with the U.S. plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict becomes increasingly obvious. Authorizing a Palestinian delegation to meet with Baker was a clear indication of the Palestinian leadership's

readiness to disregard international legitimacy and stop insisting on a delegation that will represent inside and outside Palestinians. This is what Baker understood when he confined the difference between positions to Syria and Israel and when he announced that a positive Israeli response, like the Syrian, will open the way to the convocation of a peace conference.

This means that the Palestinian "questions" and, consequently, the Palestinian stance, which reportedly hinges on the answer to those questions, have no place in Baker's calculations after ensuring the Arab states' agreement to his plan. This fact renders Palestinian coordination with those countries, at this late stage, a means to pressure the PLO to accept what those countries agreed on with Baker.

It should be acknowledged that there is a possibility that the Arab states will go to the peace conference without the Palestinians if they insist on receiving adequate "answers" to their questions. Al-Sadat did this alone in the past. Imagine if this time the countries concerned constitute a majority of the Arab League states?

Therefore, the authors of the "questions" must forgive us when we say that they will be forced to join the Arab caravan to the "peace conference" without receiving answers to their questions.

Since the end of the Gulf war, Baker's efforts have been focused on building a diplomatic "tunnel" through which the parties involved in the regional conflict will pass. Baker set the specifications and the measurements of the tunnel's entrance and exit according to Shamir's standards. Some of the Arab rulers, just like the PLO, have accepted those standards. [passage omitted]

Our situation differs from that of the other parties to the conflict. They will lose nothing if talks based on the Baker plan fail because they have their own homelands and international recognition. As for us, we will lose many of our political achievements, which have been won through costly sacrifices. We must ask: What has happened to the Palestinian declaration of independence, to its independent representation, and to a plenary international conference? How do these fit into Baker's plan? What will be the state of the Palestinian political achievements, which have already begun to wear thin as a result of the activity around that plan, after one or two years of two-track negotiations? Where will "the Arab coach," which is standing on the other track, be? Will it still be waiting for us, or will it move on toward a settlement?

There is still time to stop dealing with Baker's approach. We should reaffirm the Palestinian position on the basis of the resolutions of the 19th Palestine National Council and appeal to Arab and world public opinion and the Arab League to obtain guarantees based on Arab and international legitimacy. In this way, no one will be able to opt for separate solutions; the right of the Palestinian people to establish their independent state and choose their own representatives, without interference, will be

respected; and all the Arab parties will commit themselves to support the PLO, reject separate deals, and insist on a comprehensive and just solution of the conflict, based on the resolutions of international legitimacy. [passage omitted]

Delegation Member Cited on Talks With Baker

PM2907153491 London AL-QUDS AL-ARABI
in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, "member of the Palestinian team that met with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker," by Dawud Kuttub in Jerusalem; date not given]

[Text] [Kuttub] What truth is there in Arens' statements that an agreement has been reached to exclude the Jerusalem Palestinians from the first round of the international conference?

[Ashrawi] The Palestinian delegation's formation is an independent Palestinian decision in which no one—neither the United States nor Israel—can interfere. We unambiguously explained to Baker that the issue of the Jerusalem Palestinians' representation is not subject to discussion, nor are we prepared to find ways out for Israel in this regard. Everyone knows that no Palestinian or Arab is prepared to relinquish Jerusalem and its representation under any circumstances.

But if—despite its denial—Washington has adopted the Israeli conditions, then this conflicts with the official U.S. positions, which regard Jerusalem as part of the occupied territories. Clearly it cannot be claimed that there are no preconditions so Israel is setting conditions. If this is true, then it totally destroys the U.S. role and credibility in the process.

[Kuttub] What will be the Palestinian options if the United States sends international conference invitations without meeting the minimum Palestinian demands?

[Ashrawi] We have several options, but the most important thing is that, if an invitation is sent to the PLO, the problem will be resolved. If the invitation is sent to Jordan, Jordan is not willing to replace the PLO's leading role. This is a clear official position, and we must safeguard our national unity and not cast doubt on our position and decisions. The most important thing is that we should not overtake the PLO when it comes to decisions. So the position inside should not be one of total acceptance or rejection, rather we should provide our leadership with the most important details of the various positions to enable it to make the right decision, continue its principal role on the international political scene, and destroy all attempts to exclude it or reduce its legitimacy.

[Kuttub] There is concern about an Arab move uncoordinated with the Palestinian side.

[Ashrawi] No Arab solution can be secured without Palestinian participation, nor can any Arab state make a move without responsibly dealing with the Palestinian leadership represented by our sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Everyone knows that the PLO represents the entire Palestinian people. It reflects the Palestinian national identity, and Israel's refusal to talk to the PLO is designed to eliminate the national rights and the demand for an independent state. Everyone also knows—tacitly or openly—that it is the PLO which runs matters, assigns us [tukallifuna], and makes decisions on our people's behalf.

In addition to the unified internal Palestinian position, there is an urgent need for constant Arab coordination to prevent Israel from singling out one state or another or trying to reach solutions with the Arab states at the expense of the Palestinian issue.

DFLP's Hawatimah: Diplomacy 'Not Enough'

LD3007081491 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 26 Jul 91 p 5

[Interview with Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, by Walid Najm in Damascus; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Najm] Lebanese Army deployment is the issue of the hour in Lebanon. How does the Palestinian resistance view and deal with that deployment?

[Hawatimah] The deployment of the Lebanese Army in the Sidon area, east of Sidon, and near the camps is the issue that will determine the nature of that army's mission in implementing the al-Ta'if agreement.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] and the PLO are all for facilitating the Lebanese authorities' task of establishing legitimate authority in all Lebanese territories without exception. It was on that basis that the DFLP announced, from the very beginning, that it would respect the al-Ta'if agreement. Thank God, all the PLO factions have adopted the same position. [passage omitted]

We wanted the Lebanese Army's deployment to be completed quietly and in a spirit of dialogue—not one of gunfire. However—and we say this frankly—some, though not all, members of the Lebanese Government, under pressure from the U.S. Embassy in Beirut, wanted the army's deployment to proceed with gunfire, not dialogue. That is why they foiled the Sidon nationalist and Islamic forces' call to postpone deployment for a few hours or a few days until all the issues are resolved peacefully through dialogue without a single shot being fired.

We have rejected, and still reject, the language of gunfire and we have tried, and are still trying, to settle all the issues through dialogue. That is why we immediately sought to contain the clashes and condemned whoever started them. [passage omitted]

All that was agreed on between the delegation of the PLO factions and the Lebanese Government delegation has now been implemented. The Lebanese Army has completed its deployment. All matters relating to heavy and medium weapons have been resolved. The Palestinian side has fulfilled all its obligations.

The ball is now in Washington and Tel Aviv's court in connection with the withdrawal from Jazzin and the establishment of legitimate Lebanese authority there. According to resolution 425, Jazzin is not a part of the border strip because it was occupied after the resolution was issued.

There must be an immediate withdrawal from Jazzin. Sadly, the Lebanese Government has received negative signals from Washington, according to the U.S. State Department spokesman. [passage omitted]

[Najm] What will happen to the Palestinian weapons, and to whom will they be surrendered?

[Hawatimah] In direct terms, it has been agreed with the Lebanese Government to transfer the heavy and medium weapons to the al-Biq'a' area. That includes the weapons of all the PLO factions without exception. The issue of the arms for self-defense in the camps has not been raised. The nationalist forces in southern Lebanon have a fundamental right to continue their resistance against the occupation. Furthermore, all the forces struggling against the occupation to force the enemy to leave declare that they have a right to continue the struggle. The Lebanese Government also upholds the right to resist occupation. [passage omitted]

Everything in Lebanon faces a great challenge. The coming weeks will show that diplomacy alone is not enough.

[Najm] It has been claimed that Palestinian heavy and medium arms will be moved out of Lebanon. What is your comment on that?

[Hawatimah] Not everything is up to the Palestinian, Lebanese, and Arab nationalist forces. We live in a region of conflict. In view of the balance of power on the ground, solutions will develop and so will the degree of response to the balances of interest in accordance with the world political concept to which we aspire.

The U.S. Administration and the Israeli enemy are noticeably still insisting on favoring balances of power at every step, at the expense of balances of interests.

It is from that angle that we should view the Palestinian heavy and medium weapons which, it has been agreed, are to be transferred in implementation of the new step under the al-Ta'if agreement. What cannot be predicted is this: Will they be kept in al-Biq'a' and used to end the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon and the neighboring occupied territory, or will they be taken abroad?

Whatever happens, all forms of resistance against the Israeli occupation will continue. [passage omitted]

[Najm] What is the latest on your dialogue with Syria?

[Hawatimah] Bilateral relations have certainly been complicated in recent years. That is why there are no instant magic solutions. We are pressing for the implementation of the Palestinian Central Council resolutions. The previous meeting between the Executive Committee delegation and the Syrians was held in that context. It was an exploratory and preparatory meeting which did not rise to the level of substantive political discussion of all the problems in bilateral relations and ways of resolving them. We hope that the dialogue will be resumed at the earliest opportunity. [passage omitted]

We favor building relations on an equal footing and are against all forms of trusteeship and containment. All this is possible under the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit conferences, the latest being the Algiers and Casablanca summits which accurately defined the common denominators between the PLO and each Arab country, especially those adjacent to the occupied territory.

[Najm] Is the PLO ready for bilateral negotiations with Israel?

[Hawatimah] We of the DFLP and the PLO have announced that we are ready for all preparatory bilateral steps between the PLO and Israel through a peace conference based on the legitimate international resolutions 242 and 338, but Israel rejects that. It is constantly declaring that it will not negotiate with the PLO either bilaterally or within a peace conference. It is opposed to the representation of the Palestinians of the diaspora in

negotiations of any kind. It does not recognize the existence of the Palestinian people. It proposes administrative autonomy for the people of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, while maintaining political control on the ground. [passage omitted]

[Najm] What is your Palestinian option?

[Hawatimah] Our option is to have an independent Palestinian delegation representing our people in the occupied territory and in the diaspora. We have that right under Arab and international law.

The U.S. Administration is now proposing a delegation from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but not Jerusalem. That is what James Baker told a Palestinian delegation—including Faysal al-Husayni—that he received in Washington. Baker emphasized that Faysal himself was unacceptable as a Palestinian representative because he is from Jerusalem. Israel, as a precondition, wants the right to veto any Palestinian representative that it does not like.

As far as we are concerned, the Palestinian Central Council has decided that the Palestinians should be represented by an independent delegation from inside and outside the homeland, a delegation to be formed by the PLO. If that right is not fulfilled, then the problem of independent Palestinian representation could be solved within an Arab framework, and that is open to discussion. That is why it is important to us that the five-party Arab meeting be held urgently to heal Arab wounds and open the way for a joint Arab discussion of any problems that might stand in the way of convening a peace conference based on international law.

Algeria

Government-Political Parties Talks Set To Open

FIS To Boycott Meeting

LD2907205691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1800 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpts] It is only a few hours before the opening tomorrow of the government-political parties national conference, a much-awaited conference which will be decisive for the future of the country. [passage omitted]

Out of the 50 or so parties, only four have turned down the invitation: the PAGES [Socialist Vanguard Party], the PNA [Algerian National Party], the UFD [Union of Democratic Forces] and the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front]. We have just this minute learned from well-informed sources following a meeting of the [FIS] Consultative Council that the FIS will not be taking part in this meeting. [passage omitted]

Approved national associations may also take part in the national conference, but as observers. Among these associations are the Human Rights League and the Algerian General Trade Union. Mr. Sidi Said, the national secretary for social affairs, confirmed the participation of the trade union to Mohamed Raddaoui. [passage omitted]

Agenda Detailed

LD3007092691 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 0800 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] The proceedings of the national meeting between the government and 45 parties is scheduled to open now at the Palais des Nations at the Club des Pins attended by a number of social, cultural, and popular organizations as observers.

The political parties absent from today's meeting are the Islamic Salvation Front, El Oumma Movement, Contemporary Muslim Algeria Party, Socialist Vanguard Party, the Union of Democratic Forces, and the Algerian National Party.

The government-parties meeting's agenda consists of three points: a government review of the economic and social situation in the country, an exchange of views on guarding and consolidating the democratic course, the ethics of respecting legitimacy and the rules of the democratic game, and finally, consultations on the structure of the dialogue within the perspective of legislative elections.

Iraqi Trade Minister Holds News Conference

JN3007063591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2036 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jul (INA)—Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih has stated that the economic blockade enforced against Iraq for almost one year might

be more lethal than nuclear arms, especially if the United States continues to apply pressure on the UN Security Council to prevent it from lifting the blockade.

At a news conference in Algiers today, Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih added that the United States is enforcing a stringent blockade against 18 million Iraqis to deny them access to the most basic food and medicine requirements after it destroyed in its savage aggression a large proportion of their infrastructure.

The trade minister ridiculed Bush's claims of freedom, democracy, and peace and his donning of a humanitarian mantle and alleged concern for international legitimacy. He indicated that hardly anyone believes these things, and wondered how Bush can explain the fact that he is jeopardizing the lives of an entire people after he committed the most horrendous aggression, which was unprecedented in history. He continues to perpetrate collective crimes against the Iraqi people, endangering the lives of tens of thousands of children, women, and elderly people, the minister added.

The trade minister said the destruction to his ministry's installations as a result of the American-Atlantic aggression was immense. The food and baby milk stores were almost totally destroyed. Then came the second chapter of aggression implemented by Iran to finish off what remained of these installations, Dr. Salih said.

Dr. Salih said that food rationing is proceeding normally after all people living in Iraq, whether they are Iraqis, Arabs, or foreigners, have been issued ration cards. Similarly, the personnel of Arab and foreign embassies in Baghdad were also issued these cards. However, the continuation of the blockade could render the ministry's institutions impotent regardless of the exceptional efforts being made to give all those living on Iraqi territory access to food. This dictates that all those with a living conscience act earnestly and effectively, reflecting an awareness of the dangers posed by maintaining the blockade, to help lift the blockade and permit the Iraqi people to enjoy their resources.

The trade minister added: Large amounts of food and baby milk, contracts for which were concluded before the UN Security Council passed its sanctions resolution on 6 August, were shipped to Turkish and other nearby ports. The United States, however, has not allowed them to enter Iraq. In the meantime, a few weeks after the imposition of sanctions, the United States deemed it appropriate to use the Iraqi oil which was in tankers and which had been sold to various world firms. This reflects its criminal nature, since it is denying Iraqi children access to milk under the guise of international legitimacy after it used our oil for hostile purposes.

Departs After Talks

JN3007064091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2047 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Algiers, 29 Jul (INA)—Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, envoy of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn to his brother Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, left Algiers today.

The president's envoy relayed an oral message from the president to his brother the Algerian president concerning areas of brotherly cooperation between Iraq and Algeria as well as the exchange of views on a number of issues of common interest.

During the visit, the president's envoy also met with Algerian Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali and discussed with him various issues related to fraternal bilateral ties and means of enhancing economic cooperation and activating trade between Iraq and Algeria in the interest of the two countries. He also discussed with Algerian Economy Minister Husein Benyesd several issues related to bilateral trade cooperation.

President Receives French Economy Minister

LD2907222491 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid today received Mr. Pierre Berégovoy, French minister of economy and finance, at the Presidency of the Republic.

The French minister is on an official visit to Algeria. The meeting took place in the presence of Mr. Hocine Benissad, Algerian minister of economy, and the ambassadors of the two countries. After leaving the Presidency of the Republic, the French economy minister said on the subject of Algerian-French relations that they are good, politically and economically. There are problems facing Algeria, and France has offered its help.

The French minister of economy recalled that France was behind the 500 million European Currency Unit loan offered by the European Community to Algeria. Concerning oil, Mr. Berégovoy said: There are mutual commitments which can benefit our two countries. Algeria has entered a transitional phase of economic and political reform toward a real democracy. The French minister of economy added: Without interfering in Algerian domestic affairs, this trend is good for the Algerian people and the peoples of the Mediterranean.

The guest of Algeria concluded his statement by saying: We have also raised the meeting of the foreign ministers of the Arab Maghreb states and those of Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, to prepare carefully for the meeting of the heads of these states. The meeting should be well prepared so that hopes can be fulfilled.

Foreign Minister on AMU, Mideast Peace Process

ID2807051491 Algiers ENTV Television Network
in Arabic 1900 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Interview with Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi by unidentified correspondent; date, place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Welcome, Minister. You recently took part in the Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] foreign ministers meeting. It was said during this meeting that the time had probably come to pause, make an assessment, and review things. Is this true?

[Brahimi] I believe that what was said during that meeting was that over the past two years the Arab Maghreb states had agreed on several matters. For instance, 14 agreements were signed in various fields, including six agreements that have been ratified. Logic dictates that, first of all, these agreements should be effectively implemented to enable citizens to see the results of the actions undertaken by the states about which they read in the newspapers and about which they hear statements, such as the statement I am making now. The implementation of these agreements will give the citizens the feeling that something is being done within the Arab Maghreb framework.

It was said that an appeal was made to states and various bodies in the Maghreb states urging them to work in earnest on the implementation of what has been agreed upon and also to work in earnest to make decisions that can really be implemented. We do not try to accumulate very beautiful agreements without implementing them. I believe that this is a good and useful thing.

[Correspondent] Minister, this was the structural or procedural part at the internal level within the AMU, but the AMU also has international preoccupations or at least links in terms of Arab affiliation. For instance, under current circumstances, did you talk about the Arab-Israeli conflict and about Iraq and the threats facing it?

[Brahimi] Certainly. I call this the common concern of all Arabs. They were the subject of discussions and an exchange of views between the AMU states. Let me say something about Iraq. In Iraq there is a tragic situation which the Iraqi people are enduring. Prince Sadruddine Agha Khan, the UN envoy, who is there within the framework of the resolutions adopted by the Security Council, declared that the living conditions of the Iraqi people were worrying. He also asked for an alleviation or the lifting of the sanctions in order to enable the Iraqi people to get at least medicine and food. We certainly talked about this subject, and the AMU as a whole supports the UN envoy's appeal. There also are dangers that are still threatening the entire region; Iraq has accepted the Security Council resolutions and is cooperating in their implementation, and we do not see any reason that would justify a resumption of fighting and war at this stage.

[Correspondent] But when we talk about tension in the region, we touch upon the Palestinian issue. How do you assess Syria's recent acceptance of the plan currently being circulated in the region, and what is Algeria's position about this conference which is termed as international or regional, this peace conference?

[Brahimi] This was also discussed. I think that all AMU states are committed to the resolutions made at Arab summits. It is worth noting that some of the important resolutions adopted with regard to the Palestinian issue were adopted in the Arab Maghreb, namely in Algeria and Morocco. Hence, we are all still committed to the resolutions made at Arab summits, and all these resolutions call for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem and to the Arab-Israeli conflict—a peaceful solution and a lasting and just peace. Efforts are being made today to bring about that peace. Here I would like to talk on behalf of Algeria and not on behalf of the other states, because no decision has been made on this subject in the Arab Maghreb. In any case, the person entrusted with the task of speaking on behalf of the AMU is its president, and at present the presidency is in the hands of the brothers in Morocco. So, as far as Algeria is concerned, we support all peace efforts that could lead to a just solution of the Palestinian issue and to a just end of the Arab-Israeli conflict. As usual, Algeria, the Algerian Government, the Algerian state—and, I believe, the Algerian people—do not outbid anybody, and we appreciate that our brothers have their own considerations and circumstances. We also appreciate that the world is changing and is changing fast, and that requires everybody to adjust to these situations. In conclusion, we are in contact with our brethren and with all the parties regarding this subject. We are following these developments and we are talking to our brethren. I repeat, we are not outbidding anybody and we support anything that could lead to a satisfactory solution.

[Correspondent] Since you evaluate what happens or what is said here and there, there was a statement made in Paris by President Mubarak who said that we could lift the boycott on Israel if the latter accepts freezing the settlement of foreign immigrants in the Arab territories. What is your evaluation of this statement?

[Brahimi] In fact, what is important in the subject you have just raised is the issue of immigration. I wish to see Algerian TV devote a program to what is taking place in the occupied territories. Since 1967, there has been a Jewish immigration and settlement in the occupied territories, and this has deprived the Palestinians of nearly 70 percent of their land. The Arab city of Jerusalem has become a huge city which has expanded toward Bethlehem and toward the West Bank. It is a huge expansion. The brothers who visited Jerusalem before 1967 remember that Jerusalem was a small city and Bethlehem was only about 20 km away. The city is almost entirely covered with Jewish buildings and

Jewish settlements on Arab land. Consequently, I understand that the Palestinian brethren and all the Arabs in fact would want to look for any means of stopping the settlement immediately.

As for the immigration of Soviet Jews, there is talk of 1, 2, or 3 million of these people. Where will they go? The brothers in the Middle East, primarily the Palestinians, say that if this policy continues and if it is not ended soon, there will be no land left over which to negotiate. The Israelis will have taken all the land. On this very point, I repeat that I wish to see Algerian TV devote a program to this issue.

[Correspondent] Will you take part in such a program?

[Brahimi] Yes, I am ready. The Jordanian Government has carried out accurate studies on this subject, as have the brothers in the PLO. Consequently, the search for all means of stopping the immigration is legitimate. As for the boycott, if the Egyptian proposal has been supported by some brothers, I believe that the Palestinian brothers are examining this point. We are also in touch with all parties about this matter.

[Correspondent] Minister, you are known for your tireless action, but outside the spotlight, has your telephone been used nonstop these past days, in the direction of Arab capitals for instance?

[Brahimi] Very much so. We are in touch; I repeat, we are in touch first of all with the Palestinian brothers and we are in very close contact. It is no secret to anybody that president Yasir 'Arafat was in Algeria not so long ago. We are in constant touch with Palestinian officials, and a Palestinian delegation will pay a second visit in a few days to discuss these topics. We also have contacts, on the telephone and by other means, with the Arab brothers. God willing, there will also be direct contacts with all the brothers and friends about these subjects in the next few days. There is international interest in this subject and we must encourage this interest. If there is a real opportunity, the brothers and the Arabs have the right not to miss it.

[Correspondent] It is also their duty...

[Brahimi, interrupting] Yes, their duty, and I also believe that it is their right that the world sees whether the Israelis have become the only people to say no to everything, contrary to what your colleague said earlier when he talked about noes from here and there. I believe that the noes now come from the Israeli side, and it is the right of the Arabs to help the world draw the lesson from these Israeli stands which prevent a solution that is satisfactory to everybody.

[Correspondent] Thank you, minister. It was a pleasure to have you with us and we hope to meet you again.

[Brahimi] Thank you.

Egypt

Reports on Visit by Israeli Foreign Minister

Levi Arrives

NC2907121591 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt
Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has arrived in Cairo. Before leaving Tel Aviv this morning, he announced that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker would return to Israel this week in an effort to remove the remaining obstacles to the convening of a Middle East peace conference. He said that Israel should not obstruct the proposed peace talks, pointing out his visit to Egypt is intended to activate the peace process in the Middle East. He said that a meeting should be convened resulting in direct negotiations among the parties concerned. He stressed that the current favorable opportunity for peace in the Middle East should not be lost.

Voices 'Optimism'

NC2907134991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1322 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi has said Egypt and Israel should exchange views on the current situation to help advance the peace process. In a statement following his arrival in Cairo today, he said that the peace between Egypt and Israel should serve as an example of how it is possible to reach overall peace despite existing obstacles. He expressed optimism, but declined to answer any questions before his upcoming meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

Hints at Yes to Baker

TA2907144291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1400 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi is in Cairo and will soon confer with Butrus Ghali. Later this evening he is scheduled to meet President Hosni Mubarak. Levi said that this unique, golden opportunity to make peace should not be missed. At the beginning of his official visit to Egypt, Levi hinted at a positive Israeli response to Secretary of State Baker. Our special envoy Natan Guttman has telephoned this report from Cairo:

[Gutman] A temperature of 32 degrees Celsius and high humidity greeted Foreign Minister David Levi upon his arrival at the Egyptian capital this afternoon. Nevertheless, the reception accorded him at the airport was festive. He held a brief talk with his Egyptian counterpart, 'Amr Musa.

Addressing journalists, the foreign minister made several declarations about the prospects for peace. Even these platitudes acquire a special significance at this juncture.

[Begin Levi recording] There were problems, but we overcame them. Other problems remain, but we will

overcome them. This opportunity should not be missed. This is a propitious opportunity, and we must all make an effort. [end recording]

[Gutman] Even before the talks started, Minister Levi called on the Egyptians—and, as a matter of fact, on everybody involved—not to miss this opportunity to make peace. Levi also dropped some hints concerning the prospects of the peace process—very thick and optimistic hints about Israel's reply to Baker.

In the last few days, too, Israel has taken a very big step to promote peace, Levi said, adding: Those who need to know, know all about it, and I am glad that the process is not delayed due to Israel. This was the hint dropped by Levi. [passage omitted]

Confers With Mubarak

NC2907164691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1642 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Hosni Mubarak received Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi at the al-Qubbah republican palace this evening.

Sources—Talks 'Yielded No Results'

TA3007091291 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
30 Jul 91 pp 1, 4

[Report by Cairo correspondent Tzvi Goren]

[Excerpts] Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak invited Foreign Minister David Levi for another session tomorrow to wind up Levi's official visit to Egypt. Mubarak's meeting with Levi at al-Qubbah Palace in Cairo lasted over 90 minutes and was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Members of both entourages joined the last few minutes of the session.

At the end of the meeting, Levi said that Mubarak had agreed with him that Egypt and Israel should work together so that peace prevails in the entire region. It was also agreed that the Israeli-Egyptian dialogue should be resumed at a senior governmental level in order to promote the peace process and bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

[A related report from Cairo by Avino'am Bar-Yosef and Shefi Gabay on pages A1 and A2 of Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew on 30 July adds: "In the meeting between Levi, Musa, and Mubarak, it was decided that Egypt would not participate in the bilateral talks in the regional conference because it already has a peace treaty with Israel."]

Sources in Cairo told our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari that Levi's talks in Cairo had not been successful and that the meeting with President Mubarak had yielded no results. According to the sources, Mubarak failed to understand Israel's positions with regard to the settlements and refused to accept the Israeli stance that this issue will be discussed in negotiations and that until then

Israel should not be presented with any preconditions on the matter. Mubarak was astonished that Israel rejected his initiative to call off the Arab boycott in exchange for a moratorium on settlement, and said that Israel was missing a historic opportunity. Moreover, he did not accept the Israeli position that Egypt had sabotaged progress toward full normalization between the two countries.

Ghali, Levi Comment After Talks

NC2907172391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1654 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Dr. Butrus Ghali, deputy prime minister for foreign relations and minister of state for emigration and Egyptians abroad affairs, met with Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi at the Foreign Ministry this evening. Ghali described his talks with Levi as "positive" and said that Cairo and Tel Aviv have a political will to overcome the difficulties impeding the convening of a regional conference or peace conference. In a statement following the meeting, Ghali said that this political will will overcome these difficulties.

Ghali voiced his hope that the peace conference will convene and said that this conference will exert efforts to find a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian issue in accordance with the UN resolutions, foremost of which are Resolutions 242 and 338.

Levi said his talks with Ghali were very important and friendly, and that Ghali and he are optimistic. He said: I believe that all that has been achieved and will be achieved will boost this hope that we all entertain, namely, peace in the Middle East. He said that Dr. Ghali is a symbol of optimism and is one of those who paved the way for peace between Egypt and Israel.

Musa, Levi on 'Frank, Clear' Talks

NC2907195391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Foreign Minister David Levi discussed all aspects of the peace process during their meeting today. Musa described the talks as frank, clear, and important, adding that President Mubarak will meet once again with Levi on Wednesday. Musa said that he and Levi will brief President Mubarak on the outcome of their talks on Wednesday.

These remarks were made during a joint news conference held by 'Amr Musa and David Levi this evening.

'Amr Musa said that the current phase of the peace process is extremely important, and we must reach a lasting and just solution to the Middle East problem because this is our goal. Musa added that the talks dealt with the obstacles that face peace. We agreed on the need to tackle and overcome these obstacles so that we can

begin with the peace process and reach a peaceful settlement that is fair to everyone, Musa added. Musa pointed out that he will also discuss with the Israeli minister the relations between Egypt and Israel.

Musa reiterated that Egypt's stand on the issue of peace is clear and well known and has often been announced by President Husni Mubarak.

Responding to a question on whether today's talks dealt with the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories, Musa answered that the talks dealt with this issue.

Asked if the talks today touched on the issue of the Palestinian representation at the peace conference, Musa said: We have two days of talks, during which we will deal with all issues pertaining to peace.

During the news conference, David Levi described his talks with President Mubarak as very important and dealing with two topics—the peace process and relations between Egypt and Israel. He added that the talks were held in a friendly and frank atmosphere.

Levi said that Egypt and Israel concluded a peace treaty which is still in force, and it must be the basis for working out the peace process in the region. He added: President Mubarak has agreed that the dialogue between Egypt and Israel must be resumed at the high government level, and we must work together to promote understanding and cooperation and advance the peace process.

Levi pointed out that he will continue his talks with 'Amr Musa before his second meeting with President Mubarak on Wednesday. He said that Egypt and Israel are determined to forge ahead with their efforts to advance the peace process, and that this was clear during the open and frank discussions which he held with President Mubarak.

Musa Accepts Invitation to Israel

TA3007043791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will visit Israel. Our correspondent in Cairo reports that Musa accepted an invitation from Foreign Minister David Levi during their Cairo meeting.

Minister Levi conferred with President Mubarak last night. The two discussed bilateral relations, the composition of the Palestinian delegation to the peace conference, and settlement. President Mubarak proposed that he and Minister Levi confer again tomorrow to sum up the Cairo visit.

Today, Foreign Minister Levi will hold a working session with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, place a wreath on Anwar al-Sadat's grave, and meet with parliamentary leaders in Cairo and with the agriculture minister.

Delegations Begin 30 Jul Talks

NC3007101991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1000 GMT
30 Jul 91

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Egyptian-Israeli talks began at 1030 today with both sides being led by their foreign ministers, 'Amr Musa and David Levi, respectively.

The Egyptian delegation includes ambassador Nabil Badr, head of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Technical Cooperation; Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt's ambassador to Israel; Musatafa Hanafi, head of the Israeli Department; Naji al-Ghadrfi, official Foreign Ministry spokesman; Ahmad Abu-al-Ghayt, director of the foreign minister's office; and Nabil Fahmi, the foreign minister's political secretary.

The Israeli delegation includes Israeli Ambassador to Cairo Efrayim Dubek, and Gabay, head of the Egyptian section at the Israeli Foreign Ministry.

The talks are being held within the context of contacts Egypt is holding with all concerned parties in an attempt to jump start regional peace efforts and reach a just and comprehensive settlement that achieves security and stability for all regional countries.

The talks are focused on overcoming the obstacles facing the peace process and building bridges of confidence between the parties.

Reportage on Mubarak Visit to France

WA2907182791

For Cairo MENA and Paris Radio reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to France, including reports on his talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, please see the France section of the 29 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Libya**Tripoli 'Surprised' at Spanish Reaction to Speech**

LD2907195791 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1830 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Tripoli, 29 Jul (JANA)—Commenting on a statement by the director of the Political Information Bureau of the Spanish Foreign Ministry regarding the contents of the speech made by the brother leader of the Great al-Fatih Revolution on the occasion of the commemoration of the anniversary of the Spanish invasion of Tripoli in 1510, the director of the Information Bureau of the People's Bureau of the People's Committee for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation made the following statement:

We are surprised at the regrets expressed by the Spanish Foreign Ministry concerning the contents of this speech which stressed that we will not commit aggression against anyone, but that it is our right to exercise

legitimate self-defense based on the principle which says: We are hostile to whoever is hostile to us. The speech clearly differentiated between the Spain of yesterday and the Spain of today. We consider today's Spain a friendly state and want to establish good relations with it. This was stressed to the Spanish ambassador when he was received at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation.

Al-Qadhdhafi Speaks at Medal Presentation

LD2807195191 Tripoli JANA in English 1517 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The masses of the Arab People's Congresses in Great Jamahiriya awarded the medal of Arab nationalism to the leader of the revolution in recognition by the masses of the Arab nation of the pioneering, prominent and enticing role for the realization of the hope of the Arab nation for unity and liberation.

The secretary of the Arab Congress read out the citation of the medal asserting the important role undertaken along the path of fulfilment of the unity of Arab nations and his continued struggle against colonialism and imperialism and his constant instigation for setting up people's authority and the accomplishment of direct people's democracy everywhere in the world.

The leader of the revolution spoke after he was presented with the medal. He asserted that the Arab national did not enjoy the fruit of independence as he was freed from external forces to fall under the colonialism of an internal force represented by governmental tyranny and exploitation. The leaders called for the need to free the Arab national from such shackles and pressures so that he could determine in total freedom his own destiny through the formation of people's congresses and people's committees, and for the masses to run their own affairs by themselves and all property to be returned to the people dividing it amongst the citizens so that everyone would enjoy his share from the wealth of the country without exploitation.

The leader pointed out "We believe that the struggle of mankind became so mature to a degree peoples and masses became stronger than the forces of repression.... here are nations and peoples decide their destiny despite the war machine and force enjoyed by their opponent." He said jamahiri epoch we are living now began to march on and the masses will stop half way until they reach their goal including the establishment of people's authority everywhere and all factors which keep back the jamahiri citizen and hinder his sovereignty.

The leader of the revolution expressed the hope that the Arab nation will be the first nation reaching the final stage and realise final emancipation... and that the action of the Arab congresses on the Libyan Arab land represents the beginning of that process.... We do not want it

to be merely an action within Libya but it should extend to the greater Arab homeland.

He stressed: "Arab nationals on Arab land set up people's congresses and people's committees in total action or use of arms.... This is an operation of peaceful and democratic change from governmental theory to people's theory."

The leader of the revolution concluded his speech by expressing appreciation for the efforts of the Arab people's congresses in Great Jamahiriya and his pride in the medal which carries the name of "Medal of Arab Nationalism". He added "This is a great honour we will always be proud of." [passage omitted]

Al-Qadhdhafi Contacts Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD2707222191 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] A telephone contact was made on Saturday between the brother revolutionary leader Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the trustee of pan-Arabism, and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, president of the Republic of fraternal Tunisia.

Al-Qadhdhafi Congratulates Ethiopian President

LD2707040291 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 26 Jul 91

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has sent the following message of congratulations to President Meles Zenawi, president of the Democratic Revolutionary Front of the Ethiopian people, on the occasion of his appointment as president of Ethiopia:

I congratulate you for the trust the revolutionaries of Abyssinia [as heard] have put in you and we are confident that your leadership will enable the peoples of Abyssinia to determine their fate as they wish. We are looking forward to seeing Abyssinia return to the motherland which it left and from which it was forcibly separated for centuries.

Mauritania

Full Amnesty Granted for Security Offenses

LD2907214491 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The state president today granted full and comprehensive general amnesty for defendants accused of harming the security of the state. This decision was announced in decree Number 025/91. [passage omitted]

Citizens Invited To Create Political Parties

AB2907194091 Nouakchott ORTM Radio in French 0730 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Our countrymen are invited to react to the adoption of the decree on political parties and freedom of the

press. According to the terms of the ordinance on parties, all Mauritania are free to create parties that are associations aimed at bringing them together around a political program defined as respecting the country's independence, national unity, and territorial integrity.

Similarly, citizens may express their views through the press on all questions regarding their future. This is the essence of the ordinance on press freedom.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns to Khartoum on 'Medical Advice'

EA2907201091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1022 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 29 July (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, RCC [Revolution Command Council] chairman, had received a telephone call from Libya's internationalist leader, Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, enquiring about al-Bashir's health. Lt. Gen. al-Bashir has expressed appreciation for the concern al-Qadhdhafi has shown.

It is to be recalled that Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir who was touring the Shamaliyah, northern Sudan state, had returned to Khartoum on medical advice for a rest of few days. Gen. al-Bashir had promised to resume the tour in the very near future.

RCC Member Ends Visits to Djibouti, Ethiopia

EA2907113091 Khartoum SUNA in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Khartoum, 28 July—The presidents of Yemen, Djibouti, Ethiopia and Eritrea have hailed the Sudan's reconciliatory role to maintain peace in the Horn of Africa region. Member of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], the chairman of the Peace Department, Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, who visited these countries recently said his meetings with leaders of these countries were fruitful and useful.

He affirmed that Sudan's relations with the said countries would witness steady development in the upcoming days. He indicated that his visit to these countries was in the context of the continuous consultation to the Horn of Africa's issues and working for maintaining peace in the region. Col. Khalifah said he carried messages from RCC Chairman 'Umar al-Bashir to heads of these countries.

On the other hand, secretary general of the Sudanese People's Friendship Council, Dr. Mustafa 'Uthman al-Amin, who was among the delegation which accompanied Col. Khalifah, affirmed that Sudan's efforts for stabilising the situations in Somalia had been much appreciated locally and internationally by the participants of the Djibouti conference.

He added that Djibouti had agreed to boost a Sudanese initiative on a meeting to be held by the Somali factions in Sudan or Somalia. He affirmed Sudan's continuous

endeavours to hold another meeting in which the Somali national movement and military leaders [would] be represented.

Weapons Collection in Darfur 'Proceeding Smoothly'

*EA2707085191 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1025 GMT
26 Jul 91*

[Text] Khartoum, 26 July (SUNA)—His Excellency Amhad Ibrahim al-Tahir, acting governor of Darfur State, has emphasized that peace and stability will soon prevail in Darfur State because the plans to bring about peace are proceeding firmly. Al-Tahir further stated that the campaign to voluntarily collect weapons of different types from citizens in southern Darfur is proceeding smoothly, adding that areas which have been bedeviled by insecurity in the state are now witnessing significant tranquillity and citizens have begun to carry out their normal farming activities.

The acting governor of Darfur State went on to say that Darfur State has abundant potential and resources, which will enable it to compete with other states once peace has been restored.

[Khartoum SUNA in Arabic at 1520 GMT adds the following: "Major General Muhammad Mustafa Khalil, commander of the Sixth Infantry Division and commander of the operations to collect arms from citizens of Darfur State, yesterday briefed a visiting delegation from Central State on the Darfur State security plan. His briefing dealt with the causes of armed robbery, the effects of drought and desertification, economic decline, and lack of attention to problems and the extent of these problems in the past. The briefing also dealt with armed robbery and its effect on the economy and its development and confirmed the existence of studied plans to exterminate it. It should be pointed out that a Central State delegation led by the commander of the 23rd Division arrived in Darfur yesterday on a two-day visit to the state within the framework of cooperation in order to contribute to the Darfur security and peace plan, as represented by the collection of unlicensed weapons."]

Kuwait

Shaykh Sa'd Discusses 'Comprehensive Security'

LD2907173991 London KUNA in Arabic 1505 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 29 Jul (KUNA)—Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, crown prince and prime minister, stressed the importance of implementing the principle of "comprehensive security" to deter any danger or threat against Kuwait and all the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries. In an interview with the Kuwaiti magazine AL-DIRAH to be published tomorrow, his highness said: "We as a government look at security in a comprehensive way, covering all aspects so that there will be no repetition of the crime of the tyrannical Iraqi invasion."

Shaykh Sa'd added that consultations on implementing this concept "have started and are continuing with our Gulf and Arab brethren and friends. These consultations cover all GCC countries." He also pointed out that Kuwait is anxious to exchange ideas and come up with a formula for comprehensive security in this vital area of the world. He added that this formula is being studied now and its results will soon be announced.

In reply to questions from the magazine on the internal security situation, particularly on the issue of weapons and their widespread availability, Shaykh Sa'd praised all the citizens and residents who quickly handed over their weapons to the competent security authorities. He also stressed, however, that "the time has come for everyone to work together to eliminate lawlessness created by the evil Iraqi aggression." He then said that with God's help, Kuwait will remain as it has always been, a haven of security and safety where law and justice prevail. The crown prince and prime minister also discussed the security program adopted by the government within a comprehensive study presented by the Interior Ministry, saying that "this program aims to tackle this issue in a well-considered manner that we hope will achieve the desired results."

Regarding the recent unjust information campaign leveled against Kuwait, his highness the crown prince and prime minister said he does not have the slightest doubt that there are organizations and states that are directly interested in starting these rumors. His highness considered this as being part of the continued aggression against Kuwait. He pointed out, however, that the uproar has now begun to recede now that the facts have emerged. These facts invalidate the lies about all the statements that have been made, according to which some residents have been subjected to oppression and maltreatment. His highness stressed an obvious fact: Since the days of liberation, Kuwait has been open to representatives of all states and organizations to see the facts of the situation. His highness noted the visits of international organizations to all prisoners and the opening of courts to all observers and the various media.

His highness affirmed Kuwait's determination to maintain its steadfast policy against submitting to terrorism or blackmail and said: "I am certain that terrorism will not do

anything that might confront our national unity and the cohesion of our internal front." [passage omitted]

On Arab-Arab relations, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah said: "The change in states' regimes is not our business. Kuwait has always followed a policy of noninterference in the internal affairs of the Arab states or others; we reject any interference in our internal affairs. This is an international matter that is respected by all civilized states; everybody sees the wisdom, the balance, and positiveness of the Kuwaiti Arab role."

His highness expressed his views on the need to revise Arab-Arab relations clearly and unambiguously. He said: "The experience of Iraqi aggression against our country affected several concepts and terms."

His highness envisages that "the Arab League has a role in this field and Kuwait is committed to constant pan-Arab principles. The ordeal it faced has not affected its comprehensive vision of pan-Arab security and the same Arab interests. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Council of Ministers Holds Weekly Session

LD2907201991 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television
Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpts] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired the Council of Ministers session held at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah this afternoon, Monday, 29 July 1991.

After the session, Information Minister 'Ali al-Sha'ir made a statement to SPA in which he said: At today's session the council reviewed all the political and security developments on the Arab and international level, as well as Arab and international positions on efforts being made for peace. [passage omitted]

The beloved king commented on the statements made by some circles about the Jerusalem issue, saying that Jerusalem is one of the fundamental issues to which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has devoted most of its interest, both past and present. The Kingdom will continue its efforts in this direction, on the basis of the UN resolutions concerning the issue of holy Jerusalem and on other levels. [passage omitted]

Minister al-Sha'ir added that the custodian of the two holy mosques talked to the council about the content of the message that he—may God protect him—received from his brother His Majesty King Hassan II, Morocco's sovereign, when the custodian of the two holy mosques yesterday received His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed, son of King Hassan II, the crown prince of the fraternal Kingdom of Morocco. He, may God protect him, said:

The message of my brother King Hassan comes within the framework of consultations and exchanges of views on political and security developments in the Arab arena and the continuation of efforts toward peace. It is, therefore, an opportunity to deepen the fraternal ties that exist between the two fraternal countries on the level of the leadership and the peoples. [passage omitted]

Radioactive Material Imported for 'Medical' Use

JN2907194891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1855 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry has stated the following:

News agencies have carried reports that Iraq continued to import nuclear materials, such as plutonium and uranium, from Britain up through 5 August 1990. The British secretary of trade and industry also issued a statement that the British Government allowed the export of certain materials after ascertaining that they were for medical purposes and that only extremely small quantities were exported.

The media furor about this affair is nothing but part of the exposed attempts by anti-Iraq circles to tarnish Iraq's reputation with a view to continuing the economic blockade against the Iraqi people.

The source added: Iraq has dealt with the British Amertham company for a long time and within a clear framework. This company is known worldwide as one that deals in radioisotopes and radioactive materials for medical and pharmaceutical purposes. Iraq used to distribute these imported materials directly to Iraqi hospitals for purposes of medical diagnosis and treatment. Their arrival in Iraq stopped after 2 August 1990, due to the unjust economic blockade against Iraq. Iraqi patients were thus deprived of materials needed for treatment.

Iraq produced some of these materials in its reactor, and imported the rest. After the reactor was attacked, the patients were deprived of these medical and pharmaceutical items that were produced locally, thus increasing their suffering. It seems that the hostile quarters lost the last moral restraint and exploited even medicines for mean political purposes.

The source added that the hostile elements try to shuffle the cards when they intentionally resort to generalization and confusion while speaking about nuclear materials, despite their knowledge of the big difference between the nuclear materials and the radioactive materials used for medical and pharmaceutical purposes. It has become clear and known to everyone that certain media circles begin creating distorted facts and disseminating fabricated news when an international inspection team's visit is imminent or during the visit, to influence the team, put pressure on it, and establish controversies and pre-conceived notions.

SAIRI Claims Shelling in South Resumes

LD2707150291 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT
27 Jul 91

[Text] According to reports received from inside Iraq, the Ba'thist forces have in the past few days resumed shelling of the southern marshes of that country using tanks and cannons, massacring a large number of people.

An IRNA report quoting the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] adds that a large number of fugitives and Iraqi Army defectors are living there. No detailed reports have been received of the number of casualties caused by these attacks.

Meanwhile, a number of agents belonging to Saddam's regime, who had dressed as civilians at the time of the UN delegation's inspection of the southern marshes, began firing at the people after they were recognized by them.

'Revolutionaries' Attack al-'Amarah Army Unit

NC2807061691 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq
in Arabic 0442 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Continuing their confrontation with the bloody regime in order to kill the greatest possible number of Saddam's gang members and protect the lives and dignity of innocent people from these gangs' brutality, our heroic revolutionaries carried out a new operation against the regime's executioners.

On the morning of 24 July, the heroic popular forces attacked an enemy Army unit in the Bab al-Hawa area of al-'Amarah. According to our sources, the heroic mujahidin killed 10 of Saddam's mercenaries, men who had sold themselves to the devil. In addition, they killed three of criminal Saddam's officers, one captain and two first lieutenants. May they rot in hell. Our heroes also burned three vehicles and seized seven Kalashnikov rifles. After successfully completing their heroic mission, our forces returned safely to base, praise be to God.

We congratulate these lions of God and His messenger on their victory and call on all groups of our rebellious people to step up their operations so that the enemy is forced to respect their legitimate right to establish a just popular government and to give our people their freedom and independence.

Saddam Cites 'Historical' Victory in Gulf War

JN2907163491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said: We do not feel that we did not triumph in the great historical confrontation. We view victory in the context of the historical meaning of the confrontation, not in the context of a conflict between an army and several armies, despite the fact that our army confronted the military force of more than 30 countries, and despite the fact that our people, numbering 18 million, confronted states whose populations total more than 1 billion. Addressing a delegation representing the citizens of the Salah-al-Din Governorate, the leader president said: You triumphed because you rejected humiliation and coercion, because you rejected a situation that would continuously weaken Iraq and the nation, and because you adhered to a situation that would continuously strengthen the people and nation.

Leader President Saddam Husayn added: Those who receive their shares or appointments in accordance with what is decided by the foreigner who controls their fate do not belong to the Arabs; they represent the state of weakness that is implanted in the Arab body, and which is rejected by the Arab spirit.

The leader president said: If we are deprived of certain items in life, we will not be deprived of faith or God's care. Leader President Saddam Husayn said: Nations survive with good goals. And the honorable position adopted by every Iraqi everywhere is one that represents the position of good Arabs in the Arab homeland, from one end to the other.

The delegation was made up of clergymen and key figures from the governorate as well as tribal leaders from the governorate's capital, cities, and villages.

The meeting was attended by Hatim Hamdan al-Azzawi, chief of the presidential office; Wadban Ibrahim al-Hasan, Salah-al-Din governor; and Comrade Fawzi Khalaf Ruzayiq, secretary of the Ba'th Party branch in the governorate.

PLO Fighters Who Cooperated With Saddam Surrender

NC2807175991 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Opposition in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] A senior Palestinian figure and 14 PLO fighters, who had been cooperating with the Republican Guard in northern Iraq, have surrendered to the coalition forces after arriving in Zakho.

According to reliable sources, the Palestinians requested that they be rescued from what they called the Saddam-'Arafat predicament.

Sudanese Information Minister Arrives for Visit

JN2707065591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First
Program Network in Arabic 0300 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Sudanese Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad arrived in Baghdad last night on a visit of several days. The minister told an INA correspondent that he is carrying a message for His Excellency President Saddam Husayn from his brother 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, regarding ways to enhance the fraternal ties between the two countries. He added that his visit is motivated by a desire to acquaint himself with the magnitude of the conspiracy targeting Iraq and the efforts under way to rebuild what the treacherous anti-Iraq onslaught destroyed.

'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad condemned the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and termed it as unjust [words indistinct] a series of planned ('demands) and measures to destroy the capabilities of Iraq, which is defending oppressed nations and [words indistinct] all the oppressed. The Sudanese information minister urged

serious Arab action to confront the conspiracy, which was drawn up after careful consideration and examination.

The Sudanese minister was welcomed upon arrival by Naji al-Hadithi, under secretary at the Ministry of Culture and Information, the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad, and embassy staff.

Condemns 'Unjust Economic Blockade'

JN2807070291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT
27 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and information, has condemned the unjust economic blockade imposed by the oppressive forces on Iraq. During his meeting with Hamid Yusuf Hammadi, minister of culture and information this evening, the Sudanese minister praised the existing cooperation between the two countries in all fields, and noted that this cooperation is entrenched thanks to the wisdom and deep relations between the leaderships of the two countries.

'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad emphasized his country's sincere efforts to strengthen cooperation between the Arab nation countries. He said we have to strengthen ourselves and emerge from the circle of weakness into the circle of power in order to obtain our rights in an honorable and dignified manner.

During the meeting, they reviewed possibilities of cultural and informational cooperation and means to promote it between the two countries in the service of the Arab nation's issues.

'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad, Sudanese minister of culture and information, arrived here yesterday on a visit that will last for several days. He is carrying a message to President Saddam Husayn from his brother 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Front, related to fraternal relations between the two fraternal countries.

Delivers al-Bashir Message to Saddam

JN2807094291 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0913 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received a written message from his brother Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council. Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad conveyed the message to his excellency the president when he was received by the president this morning. Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi attended the meeting.

Discusses Media Cooperation

JN2807195891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi and Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad held their second working session here this evening. They discussed prospects for cultural and media cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

They also discussed a draft protocol for cultural and media cooperation between the two countries. The protocol provides for broader cooperation in the fields of radio, television, news agencies, cinema, theater, culture, publications, antiquities, and heritage.

The ministers also discussed an exchange of radio and television programs and dramatic works, an exchange of news, reports, information, and pictures between INA and SUNA, provision of journalistic and technical facilities for the correspondents of the two agencies in Baghdad and Khartoum, and exchange of expertise and visits by the staff of the agencies. [passage omitted]

Meets With Foreign Minister

JN2907161891 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1348 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn received Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad and his delegation today. They reviewed the situation in the Arab region and discussed ways to enhance fraternal bilateral relations in the interest of the two countries and the issues of the Arab nation. The meeting was attended by Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Foreign Ministry, and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Discusses Cooperation in Oil

JN2907181691 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1728 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti met with Sudanese Culture and Information Minister 'Abdallah Muhammad Ahmad and his delegation today. They discussed cooperation in the field of oil and Sudan's need for Iraqi advice and expertise in the field of oil industry. The oil minister stressed that Iraq is fully ready to provide expertise and advice to help Sudan's oil industry, from oil exploration to production.

AL-THAWRAH Assails Iran on Sanctions Issue

JN2807093991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—AL-THAWRAH reveals the clandestine relations among Iran, the archsatan, and

the Zionist entity. In an article published today, the paper says that the dichotomy between the Iranians' words and deeds is clear. They profess to be upholding certain slogans and adopt stands contrary to these slogans, the paper adds.

The paper affirms that the Iranian rulers have taken it upon themselves to execute the second chapter of the aggression and conspiracy against our people and country. They have turned Iran into a springboard for the cliques of saboteurs and agents in continuation of what their big masters started, the paper says.

AL-THAWRAH states that the Iranian regime continues to delude itself into believing that it can deceive and dupe the Iranian people and the world community, as if the world public can neither see, read, nor hear about the Iranian role in the scheme of aggression and imperialist-Zionist conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation.

The paper refers to the Zionist arms deals concluded with Iran, the developing relationship between Iran and this entity, and the political deals it has reached with the United States. The paper adds: At a time when the voices of honorable people all over the world can be heard calling for lifting the unjust economic blockade on Iraq, the Iranian regime has chosen to take its anti-Iraq policy to the limit by opposing the lifting of the blockade. Not only this, its media instigated the UN Security Council to maintain the blockade against Iraq.

AL-THAWRAH says: By this and other stands, the Iranian regime has unmasked its ugly face and showed its agency. Likewise, it has uncovered the falseness of its deceptive slogans and cheap outbidding regarding its alleged concern for the Iraqi people.

The paper ridicules the Iranian regime's practices, its ranting about its alleged concern for the Arab nation, and its repeated talk of "jihad" to liberate Palestine. What cheap political hypocrisy the mullahs ruling in Iran are demonstrating, the paper says.

Iran Accused of 'Large Scale' Infiltration

NC2807124791 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, July 28 (AFP)—Baghdad accused Iran of sending more than 100,000 infiltrators to southern Iraq to launch an anti-government rebellion in March, the AL-'IRAQ paper said Sunday.

The paper quoted Iraqi National Council (parliament) speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih as saying that "before their mission to Iraq, these Iranians were trained to lead sabotage operations and commit terrible crimes on a large scale."

Baghdad has repeatedly accused Tehran of causing the southern Shiite uprising and Kurdish rebellions in the north after Iraq's defeat in Kuwait in February.

President Saddam Husayn said Saturday that Iran had supported the "imperialists in their aggression against Iraq", referring to the multi-national coalition that forced Iraqi troops from the emirate.

The ruling Ba'th Party daily AL-THAWRAH condemned "the role played by Iran in the imperialist-Zionist plot against Iraq and the Arab nation." The paper also accused Iran of engaging in arms deals with Israel and "advanced political transactions" with Washington.

Iran Said Responsible for Stalling POW's Return

JN3007110791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT
30 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry said the only way to close the file on Iraqi-Iranian POW's is to sit at the negotiations table with an open heart and mind to discuss the issue and learn about the missing POW's. Answering questions by the diplomatic affairs editor of the magazine ALIF BA', the source added that the humanitarian question of the POW's should not be linked to political issues since it greatly affects the feelings and emotions of families in both countries, and since it is firmly linked to many legal issues.

The source explained that although many thousands of Iraqi POW's in Iran were registered by the Red Cross delegations to Iran, the majority is still not registered and is considered missing. He said the Iraqi Government has addressed numerous official memorandums to the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] concerning this issue and holds it fully responsible for searching for these Iraqi prisoners and missing persons, discovering their whereabouts, protecting them, and making sure they are returned to their country without delay.

The source referred to the fate of the Iraqi-Iranian joint technical committee set up to search for and investigate the whereabouts of the missing prisoners. He said: The committee held successive meetings in Baghdad and Tehran under ICRC supervision to set up a joint technical committee consisting of Iraqi and Iranian representatives and the ICRC to search for and investigate the whereabouts of the missing prisoners from both sides.

He noted that the committee was on the verge of reaching an appropriate formula for the technical committee's work. The Iranians, however, did not sign the agreement on forming the special technical committee at that time, even though the Iranians were a party to it and to its formulations, rules, and measures.

The official source at the Foreign Ministry expressed Iraq's willingness to form the committee and cooperate with it to investigate the fate of the missing POW's out of respect for adhering to the Geneva Convention so that the international community can pinpoint the party

placing obstacles before the return of prisoners to their homeland and putting an end to their misery.

The source held the Iranian Government responsible for exploiting the subject of the prisoners as a political card aimed at realizing purely political motives at Iraq's expense, without considering relations between neighbors, and of religion, the requirements of international law, the contents of the Third Geneva Convention, and the need to normalize relations between the two countries.

Paper Sees U.S. 'Maneuvering' on Blockade

JN2807091391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0632 GMT
28 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—AL-QADISIYAH has stressed that Washington is maneuvering under various excuses and pretexts to obstruct and disrupt the partial lifting of the unjust blockade. In its editorial today, the paper says: The deliberations currently under way at the United Nations led by the Western states on lifting the blockade reveal the U.S. intention to dilute the issue, which, if it continues, will lead to a huge human catastrophe in Iraq.

The paper reveals the U.S. Administration's political maneuvers to contain the international pressure that stems from humanitarian feelings toward Iraq's ordeal, and its attempts to neutralize this world sympathy.

AL-QADISIYAH notes that the just and honest world realizes that the time factor of this embargo can plunge Iraq—its women, elderly, and children—in a grave catastrophe, as the envoy of the UN secretary general to Iraq has stressed.

The paper says that the U.S. president's disregard for the basic and pressing needs of the Iraqi people, and his tricks to waste time and other impudent tricks, show that the United States and the Western world—which claim to be civilized—have committed the crime of the age against Iraq.

The paper adds that interfering in the decision to partially lift the blockade on Iraq's oil exports and to lift the unjust blockade on the steadfast Iraqi people serves the political objectives of the U.S. conspiracy. The paper explains that the magnitude of the conspiracy against Iraq and the Arab nation being implemented by the United States and the Zionist entity to place the entire region under their influence, guarantees imposing U.S. hegemony over the region and plundering its wealth in an organized way, and deprives the Palestine question of its struggle and pan-Arab concept.

The paper wonders about the suspicious international silence toward this U.S. and Western onslaught, and one can say that the world conscience has become the subject of blame and suspicion. The paper stresses that at this critical situation Iraq and its faithful people can only

continue their steadfastness to safeguard their dignity, free will, and independent political decision.

Says People To Rally Around Saddam

JN2707104391 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0640 GMT
27 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH states that Iraq rejects any foreign custodianship. If Bush puts into effect his hostile plans and realizes his hateful hopes, the only possible end result will be further steadfastness, building, and reconstruction, and the people fully rallying around the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn, the paper adds.

In an editorial published today, the paper refers to Bush's determination to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs, saying: This means that the eventual goal of the recent black chapters of the U.S. conspiracy, as well as the new chapters yet to unfold, is to behead Iraq rather than implement the UN Security Council resolutions, as the American President likes to say on all occasions to justify his aggressiveness or to execute another chapter in the U.S. scheme not only against Iraq and its people, but also against the entire region.

The paper states that Bush is betting on the unjust economic blockade against the Iraqi people to undermine the spirit of steadfastness and reconstruction growing within these faithful people. The paper adds: Similarly, the blockade is targeting the leadership of His Excellency President Saddam Husayn with a view to realizing the objectives of the United States' political conspiracy. To achieve these purposes, it is engaged in a crime against humanity by starving a whole people and radically endangering the lives of their children, women, and elderly as a result of the serious shortages in foodstuffs, medical supplies, and the basics needed to bring Iraq back to normal.

The paper goes on to say: What is so disgusting about the U.S. position is that Bush is sticking to it despite its abject failure and also despite the stigma of disgrace that has marked him as result of his insistence on maintaining the unjust economic blockade and starving the Iraqi people to execute the current chapter in the aggression, which represents the culmination of efforts to interfere in Iraq's domestic affairs and impose custodianship on its people.

The paper asserts that the new hostility Bush expresses is nothing new, as Iraq and its people have been facing the American conspiracy and position from the start of the brute aggression. The aggression met with abysmal failure, and its authors reaped disappointment, as the Iraqi people demonstrated in the best possible way that they were unflinching in their rallying around the unique leadership of leader President Saddam Husayn. In the meantime, behind the banner of this leadership they

have gone on with the epic building and reconstruction of what the brutal 30-state aggression destroyed, the paper concludes.

Agreement With UN on Return of Goods to Kuwait

JN2907161091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1215 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—An official source at the Foreign Ministry has announced that Iraq and the United Nations have reached a final agreement on all technical details pertinent to the transfer of Kuwaiti gold, coins, and banknotes from Baghdad to the Saudi region of 'Ar'ar.

In a statement to INA today, the source stated that according to the agreement reached with UN Assistant Secretary General Foran during his visit to Baghdad on 13-18 July, 5 August will be the starting date for turning over the goods.

The source said that members of the Iraqi delegation will be present at the UN-controlled region two days ahead of time to work out all agreed issues.

The source also said that in another meeting between the director general of antiquities and heritage and the UN secretary general's representative, a final agreement on all technical issues related to the handover of museum articles to representatives of the Kuwaiti side in Baghdad was reached.

The source added that a large hall in the Iraqi museum will be devoted to this purpose, and the museum articles will then be taken out of Iraq by UN aircraft. The handover will take place a week after the transfer of gold.

The official source at the Foreign Ministry expected that a final agreement on the transfer of the GS-125 plane [as received] and the nine motors will be reached when the representatives of the Kuwaiti side arrive in Baghdad shortly.

Saddam Inspects Work on al-Jumhuriyah Bridge

JN2907173491 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio
First Program Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has said: If I were to look at a graph measuring the work of the Iraqis, I would find that their spirits are growing higher as the crisis of the blockade intensifies—such is the new man. The leader president added: We suffered material losses in the aggression, and we lost many noble martyrs, who are Iraq's banners. But the aggressors failed to destroy the new man inside us, and Iraq's main banner continues to fly high.

Addressing his people, his excellency said: In this new stage, you accomplish work in a shorter time and in a better way than the pre-aggression stage—the stage which the aggressors objected to and because of which they antagonized you and launched the war against you.

Leader President Saddam Husayn made these remarks while inspecting repair work at the al-Jumhuriyah Bridge [in Baghdad]. The bridge was the target of hostile raids by the aggressive, colonialist imperialists—the allies of Zionism—through enemy air activity to sabotage and destroy the basic structures—the mainstay of our people's development and the product of their persistent work.

At the beginning of the meeting, the engineer supervising the repair work discussed the large extent of damage inflicted on the bridge, and reviewed the work plan prepared by Iraqi specialists in the field. The engineer also explained the progress of the repairs, which has accelerated dramatically thanks to the efforts of engineers, technicians, and workers, who rushed to assume their roles in the epic of construction our country is witnessing, and to repay through their sweat some of the debt our people owe the righteous martyrs.

The leader president inspected both sides of the bridge on both banks of the river. He also acquainted himself with conditions of some of the citizens living in the vicinity.

The workers pledged to God, the homeland, and the leader to continue efforts to accomplish their tasks and achieve the best results in record time.

Travel Restrictions To Curb Outflow of Iraqis

JN3007080291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
30 Jul 91 p 3

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The massive influx of Iraqis into Jordan which began in mid-May is soon expected to be restricted by new measures to be adopted by the Iraqi government, highly informed sources said Monday.

"The Iraqi government has informed Jordan that it is planning to impose a series of regulations aimed at reducing the flow of Iraqis leaving the country," said one of the sources.

According to the source, the Iraqi decision was conveyed to the Jordanian government by the governor of al-Anbar province, Jasim Muhammad al-Rikabi, who visited Jordan last week.

Mr. al-Rikabi held talks with Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul and other senior officials.

No precise figure is available on the number of Iraqis who travelled to Jordan since mid-May when the Baghdad government lifted decade-old travel restrictions on Iraqi citizens.

Informed officials said this week an average of 1,000 Iraqis were coming across the border into Jordan while 750 to 800 were leaving the Kingdom every day. The official could not provide any definite number of Iraqis

remaining in Jordan, but independent sources have put the figure at around 50,000.

Jordan represents the only avenue for Iraqis to leave Iraq since their country's borders with Turkey, Iran and Syria remained closed. Baghdad airport was damaged in the Gulf war and part of the damages have been repaired, but the air blockade imposed on Iraq prevents the reopening of the airport for civilian passenger flights.

Travellers on the main Baghdad-Amman road reported a significant increase in the number of Iraqis crossing into Jordan this week with hundreds of cars and buses clogging the border posts.

But suggestions that the rise could be due to fears of renewed use of force by the American-led coalition against Iraq could not be clearly substantiated. Many Iraqis interviewed by the JORDAN TIMES said they were seeking a short respite from the shortage of food and other essentials in their war-ravaged country which is under international sanctions imposed after its Aug. 2 invasion of Kuwait. Others said they were waiting for reunion with family members living abroad or for word on their applications for visas to European countries or the U.S.

A few said they were worried over the possibility of allied attacks on Iraq's nuclear facilities but that was not the main factor behind their departure for Jordan.

"Many of us have relatives abroad who would like to send us money," said an Iraqi who identified himself only as 'Abd-al-Hamid. "We can't receive bank transfers in Iraq, and so we have to come to Amman to collect them through Jordanian banks," he said.

Among the measures expected to be adopted by the Iraqi government are a reimposition of mandatory exit permits for all Iraqis wishing to leave their country, insistence on a documented third country visa and limiting the number of family members who could leave the country in one group, sources told the Jordan Times.

It was not immediately known whether Jordan would exercise its option of reimposing visa restrictions for Iraqis crossing the border through al-Ruwayshid post. Under the statutes of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC)—which groups Jordan with Iraq, Egypt and Yemen—ACC nationals are exempt from visa regulations in all ACC member states.

International relief officials said the number of Iraqis formally seeking political refugee abroad was only "in tens."

"Most of the applicants want help to obtain visa for any of the European countries or the United States after failing to secure visa through proper channels—through the respective embassies in Amman," said a senior official of an international relief agency operating in Amman.

In the meantime, Iraqi guests crowd downtown hotels as well as some of the five-star establishments and apartments in and around Amman.

Entire families of eight or 10 are crammed into single rooms in downtown hotels, which serve as home for many for weeks.

Officials said the concerned authorities have been referring to the government all applications from Iraqi citizens to buy real estate—including apartments—in Jordan.

"Standing regulations stipulate that all such applications have to be approved by the Council of Ministers before the actual transaction is registered," said an official. "So far no approval has been granted," the official added.

Although heated arguments over their government's policies and practices are frequent among the Iraqis living in Jordan—as was witnessed during a visit to a downtown hotel—no "serious" law and order violations by the guests have been reported so far.

Iraqi, Arab Deportees Arrive From Kuwait

JN2807093091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2039 GMT
27 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Al-Basrah, 27 Jul (INA)—A new batch of Iraqi and Arab citizens deported by the Kuwaiti authorities after being released from detention arrived at the Safwan border area in al-Basrah Governorate today. The new batch of deportees comprises 72 citizens from Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Sudan, and Yemen. [passage omitted]

A total of 1,431 Iraqi and Arab citizens have arrived at Safwan in the past four days from Kuwait after the Kuwaiti authorities relieved them of their posts and after they were subjected to intimidation and oppression. [passage omitted]

Kurdish Radio on Negotiations, Expectations

JN2807204191 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi
Kurdistan in Arabic 1630 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Station commentary: "Unwavering Trust and Sense of National Responsibility Will Achieve Aspirations"]

[Excerpts] The sessions of the final round of negotiations between the Kurdish Front delegation and the Iraqi Government, which began in mid-April this year, continue in Baghdad in order to find a final peaceful solution to the [word indistinct] Kurdish issue, after years of infighting and bitter war proved that this national issue could not be settled by the use of force. Force would only complicate things, result in more losses and waste of human energy and material resources, and deepen rifts and divisions. Hence, the choice of meetings and negotiations between the two sides.

The negotiations [words indistinct] repeated assurances by sources of the two sides have entered their final phase.

Negotiators are perhaps even now adding the finishing touches to the agreement, after finding appropriate and acceptable solutions to some unresolved aspects, particularly the definition of the area in which autonomy will be exercised.

The period of negotiations has provided a good opportunity for the two delegations to better know the depth and importance of the issue, which really requires a more comprehensive national outlook and discernment for a resolution, within the framework of the unity of the Iraqi people and their basic interests and of Arab-Kurdish brotherhood.

The element of trust in the sessions has had a great effect on the achievements of the meetings and negotiations. This element of trust has encouraged the two sides to speed up the process toward the final stages of negotiations. We hope that the final agreement will be announced soon.

In fact, the two sides have worked as one team, not two, under the directives of the president of the Republic and the leader of our delegation, Comrade struggler Mas'ud Barzani. The members of this team are busy discharging the tasks they have been assigned through joint committees, especially set up for the new autonomy law. These committees will define the area, normalize the situation in Kurdistan, and attend to democracy, party pluralism, freedom of the press, and other issues that are among the requirements of the new phase and the building of new Iraq.

Another very important aspect that should be noted is the continuous meetings and reciprocal visits by the Kurdish Front delegation and government officials not party to the talks, as well as the meeting between the leader of the delegation and the president of the Republic.

These meetings and visits will help the two sides know each other better, and will promote a spirit of understanding and unwavering trust. These are good opportunities for the brothers of the two sides to know each other close up. This point is very effective in producing the right outlook, deep awareness, and reciprocal national understanding. [passage omitted]

In brief, thanks to the unwavering trust, the high sense of nationalism, the interests of the Iraqi people and their national unity, and Kurdish-Arab brotherhood, negotiations between the government and the Kurdish Front are moving satisfactorily toward a conclusion. The final agreement is a few days away. Aspirations will then materialize, and a new life permeated by democracy, liberty, equality, justice, peace, and true brotherhood will commence.

Relief Aid Sent to Irbil Earthquake Victims

*JN2807121491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT
28 Jul 91*

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—The Iraqi Red Crescent Society has begun to dispatch and distribute relief aid among the citizens affected by the earthquake which recently hit several areas in the Irbil Governorate in northern Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Red Crescent Society Chairman Dr. Ibrahim Ahmad al-Nuri said that the society expedited the dispatch of foodstuffs, medical supplies, and other relief aid to those harmed by the earthquake.

Dr. al-Nuri added that the society is in direct touch with relief teams to assess the situation and extend assistance to those harmed by the earthquake.

Foreign Minister Departs for Egypt

TA2907105391 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Upon his departure for Egypt at noon today, Foreign Minister David Levi said that U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will apparently be back in Israel by the end of the week in a bid to overcome the last snags hindering the summoning of a peace conference. Levi stated: Israel should not stand in the way of peace talks. Our correspondent Gil Yerushalmi met Minister Levi at Ben-Gurion Airport:

[Begin recording] [Yerushalmi] Even before starting his visit to Cairo, Foreign Minister Levi is already expecting another visit: that of Secretary of State Baker, who, according to Levi, will probably be back in Israel in the next few days to finalize the understandings reached recently.

[Levi] Israel has not and is not procrastinating; Israel is saying yes. Perhaps within a few days we may be able to discuss all the issues and the understandings that have already been reached in a good climate with Mr. Baker himself, who, I hope, will be back here in the next few days.

[Yerushalmi] Levi is leaving for Egypt with the hope of replacing the bad atmosphere with a good one, as he put it. This is not the time to pile obstacles on the road to peace, Minister Levi stated, emphasizing the importance of direct negotiations without preconditions. In any event, Israel adheres to its position with regard to the Palestinian representation and the question of Palestinians from East Jerusalem.

[Levi] We have stated our position on East Jerusalem, and I am not going to Egypt to enter negotiations on how to change it. I have said that this is not the time to pile obstacles on the road to peace. There is an agreement with Mr. Baker, who is working to promote it. Most of the problems have been settled, and every possible effort should be made now by both us and Egypt to remove the obstacles placed by all sort of elements and make progress. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 1000 GMT on 29 July carries a related report, adding that "Levi told the news conference the purpose of his visit to Egypt is to renew the dialogue between Israel and Egypt at the highest level in order to promote the peace process. This was a reference to the fact that President Mubarak has never visited Israel since he took office and refuses to meet Prime Minister Shamir unless Shamir agrees in advance to some political concession. Commenting on President Mubarak's repeated attacks on Prime Minister Shamir, Levi said Egypt ought to maintain a low profile at present. I'm not going to Cairo to quarrel with anybody, he said, and I hope I will be able to create a positive atmosphere. If both sides desire this, it is possible. Asked if he is conveying a message from Prime Minister Shamir, Levi replied: Yes—greetings."

[Levi added that "when Secretary of State Baker returns this week, Israel will ask to see the list of Palestinian representatives proposed for the regional conference."]

Shamir—Opening of Talks 'Short Time Away'

TA2907171891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1605 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Our Knesset correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that in the course of his meeting with the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said: Depending on the goodwill of all sides, the opening conference of negotiations with the Arabs is only a short time away. The road of direct and open negotiations is the high road to the revival of the Third Temple state.

[Begin Nir recording] [passage omitted] Referring to the Soviet Union, the prime minister said that, if the peace process materializes, that country will have no choice other than resuming full diplomatic with Israel.

Commenting on settlement and the Arab boycott, Shamir said: I raised the exaggerated, radical U.S. statements on the matter with Baker. We explained our position that this is not an extraordinary issue, that it is part of the territorial conflict. The Arabs claim the land belongs to them, while we say it belongs to us. Baker noted that what is at stake are measures to ease the tension. [end recording] [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic at 1630 GMT on 29 July carries a recorded interview with Prime Minister Shamir by an unidentified correspondent, recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles. Asked "whether Israel has in principle given its positive reply to the Americans concerning its participation in a regional conference," Shamir says: "We do not owe any reply. On the contrary, we are now awaiting their reply. It is a matter of clarifying and concluding some issues, which could come about during an upcoming visit by the U.S. secretary of state."

[Asked to react to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks in an interview with NEWSWEEK that if there is nothing to talk about with regard to territory then there will be no peace, the prime minister answered: "I would rather discuss it with him face to face."

[Asked whether he persists in his opposition to the participation of Arabs of East Jerusalem in the regional conference, Shamir says: "There is no doubt about it. There is an accord between us and our American friends that the Arabs of East Jerusalem and PLO men would not be part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation."]

More on Talks, Palestinian Delegation

TA3007083291 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 30 Jul 91 p 1

[By Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister Shamir said inside the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee

that Baker is finding it hard to persuade the Palestinians to agree on the composition of a joint delegation. "We want to know who the Palestinian delegates would be before anything starts, but that does not mean we demand a veto," the premier said.

He added that it would be possible to find solutions to the issue of a UN observer at the conference, and to the issue of the conference's continuity.

Shamir said Israel has an assurance from the Bush administration that it need not pull its troops out of southern Lebanon until all Syrian forces and armed non-governmental groups were out as well. It also had assurances that commitments given to premier Golda Meir by president Richard Nixon in 1970, and to former premier Yitzhak Rabin by former president Gerald Ford in 1975—both related to the Golan Heights—are still valid.

[A report by Yoram Bar on page 3 of Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 30 July notes that Shamir corrected some of the committee members who referred to a regional conference, "clarifying that it is not an international or regional conference, but a series of negotiations."]

In the committee discussion, Rabin and Labor chairman Shim'on Peres assured Shamir that they would back his negotiating initiatives at the parliamentary level, but chided him for biting off more than he could chew by agreeing to talk to all the Arab governments simultaneously. They both said Shamir should negotiate an arrangement with the Palestinians and Jordan first, leaving Syria to last. [passage omitted]

Reply to U.S. Only After Memo of Understanding

TA3007104291 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1000 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Telephone report from Cairo by Natan Gutman—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] A source in Foreign Minister David Levi's entourage emphasized to us today that although in principle Israel intends to give a positive answer to the U.S. secretary of state, in practice this will be done only after Baker returns to the area over the weekend and delivers the memorandum of understanding. [passage omitted]

'Political Sources' on East Jerusalem Issue

TA2807081591 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0500 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] The issue of the participation of an East Jerusalem representative on the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation still constitutes the main obstacle on the way to a conference. Political sources in Jerusalem reported about several compromise proposals the United States

raised in various talks as a solution to this problem. One idea advocates that an East Jerusalem representative will not be incorporated in the first stage of the talks. The Palestinians will then be promised, through a letter of guarantees, that the absence of a representative from the first stage of the talks does not affect the basic positions that will be discussed at the permanent settlement stage. Another idea is similar but reversed: East Jerusalem representatives will take part in the conference, and it will be Israel that will get the letter of guarantees. This letter will stipulate that the participation of these representatives will not put the Jerusalem sovereignty issue on the agenda. Still, the two sides, the Israelis and the Palestinians, should accept these proposals, and they have not done so yet.

Against the background of the difficulties involved in the Palestinian representation issue, Brent Scowcroft's remarks that Bush and Gorbachev this week will declare the holding of the conference are interpreted as an attempt to exert pressure on both sides. Israel, political sources in Jerusalem said, will find it very difficult to reject such an invitation even if the composition of the Palestinian delegation is unacceptable to it.

The Palestinian representation issue and progress toward a regional conference will also feature in David Levi's talks which will start tomorrow in Egypt. Levi is expected to meet with President Mubarak and Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Kollek—Jerusalem Representation 'Minor Matter'

TA2907044891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek has declared that the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs should not jeopardize the proposed peace conference. He said such a move would in no way affect Israel's sovereignty over Jerusalem.

[Begin Kollek recording] As the mayor of Jerusalem, I would be extremely unhappy if because of this matter—that I regard as a minor matter—the negotiations would be somehow interrupted, torpedoed, or I don't know what. [end recording]

Closure of al-Husayni Institute Extended by Year

TA2907091791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0900 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Major General Dani Yatom, commander of the Central Command, has extended the closure order against Faysal al-Husayni's Institute of Arab Studies in East Jerusalem by another 12 months. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the institute has been closed for the last three years by order of the defense establishment.

Editorial Urges PLO To Name Delegation*TA2807114891 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 28 Jul 91 p 2*

[Editorial: "The PLO Will Discuss and Reach a Decision"]

[Text] Last week we listened carefully to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir wherever he spoke.

Judging from his remarks, it appears that, in fact, we have already overcome all of the obstacles on the road to the peace conference, except for the issue of the composition of the Palestinian delegation. Nevertheless, it was inferred from the prime minister's remarks that he is certain the conference will convene soon.

But then Yosi Ben-Aharon, Shamir's office director general—who deserves to be called "the director general of the state"—came and presented a series of new problems, beginning with the phrasing of the invitation to the conference and ending with the flag of the Palestinian delegation. This again calls for the following question: "Which of the two is really in the know, stipulates, and decides—the prime minister or his director general?"

At the same time we found ourselves in an absurd situation. Coordinating with the United States, Israel's Government disqualifies the PLO as a partner for the talks and demands to be given the right to veto the composition of the Palestinian delegation. In Jerusalem, however, just as in Washington, everybody knows—though they pretend they do not want to know—that there is no chance of forming a delegation unless PLO-Tunis discusses, reaches a decision, and approves it.

We can only hope that in Tunis as well, political wisdom for once will win over the self-destructive urge and that the PLO leadership will not miss the opportunity to promote the national interests of the Palestinian people it claims it represents.

Palestinians View Prospects for Talks*TA2907083691 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 29 Jul 91 p 12*

[Report by Dan Izenberg and news agencies]

[Excerpt] Local Palestinian leaders say they believe the peace process will not get off the ground because of what they say is Israeli intransigence and American unwillingness to confront Prime Minister Shamir.

"Shamir is using the issue of Palestinian representation as an excuse to sabotage the peace talks," Hannan 'Ashrawi, one of three local Palestinian leaders who met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker recently, told THE JERUSALEM POST yesterday. The government has insisted that no Palestinian representatives from East

Jerusalem attend the talks and that the PLO be barred from choosing the Palestinian slate in a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

"Shamir is asking the Palestinians to deny their own rights and the Americans to violate their own policy," she said. Even though the U.S. agrees that East Jerusalem is occupied territory, it does nothing to express its position in practice by forcing Israel to accept Palestinian representatives from East Jerusalem, she charged.

Former Hebron mayor Mustafa al-Natshah said the Americans had backtracked in their attitude towards the Palestinians since the Gulf War, because they were now willing to compromise on East Jerusalem Palestinian representation and the question of who would appoint the Palestinian delegation. "The most important thing at this time is to resume the U.S.-PLO dialog in the same way as the Jordanian-U.S. dialog," he added. [passage omitted]

High Court Rules Against VOA Station*TA2907084891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0800 GMT 29 Jul 91*

[Text] The High Court of Justice has adopted a ruling that will prevent the establishment of the Voice of America [VOA] relay station in the 'Arava. The High Court's decision followed an appeal by the Nature Preservation Society and residents of the 'Arava. Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that the High Court of Justice accepted the Nature Preservation Society claim that the decision to set up the relay station was made by the National Council on Planning and Construction without a careful examination of three major issues which affect the environment.

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0730 GMT on 29 July reports that "the High Court of Justice has ruled that before resuming work on the VOA relay station in the 'Arava, a survey will be carried out to examine the effect of the station's radiation on the migration of birds in the area. The survey will also probe the effects of moving the adjacent IDF [Israel Defense Forces] firing ranges."]

Sharon Says Work on West Bank Settlement Begun*TA2907163991 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
1600 GMT 29 Jul 91*

[Text] Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon announced today that his ministry has already begun to work on infrastructure and road paving at the Avney Hefetz site near Tulkarm. According to Sharon, a big town will be built on the site. Our correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that, at a meeting with the presidium of the Building Contractors Association, Sharon said that half of the scope of construction next year will be in Judaea and Samaria, Jerusalem, and the settlements within the Green Line that form part of Sharon's Seven-Star Plan [strip of settlements planned between the coastal plain and West Bank].

Construction of New Golan Apartments Authorized

TA2807052791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English
0400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Housing Ministry officials last night gave authorization for the construction of 380 new apartments on the Golan Heights. Jewish residents on the Heights insist the move is not a provocation aimed at damaging the peace process. They say the construction was agreed upon a year ago and was delayed due to bureaucracy. There are currently 3,200 apartments housing Jewish residents of the Golan Heights.

Arens Urges New Ways To Deal With Unrest

TA2807095791 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Jul 91 pp A1, 8

[Report by Eytan Rabin and ITIM]

[Excerpt] Defense Minister Moshe Arens has called on Chief of Staff Ehud Barak to consider new ways of dealing with the intifadah in view of the sharp increase in the use of live ammunition in the territories. Arens discussed the issue after hearing reports by Major General Dani Yatom, the commander of the Central Command, and Maj. Gen. Matan Vilnay, commander of the Southern Command, in the territories forum about changes in the characteristics of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Defense sources said that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] must consider introducing special forces into the focal areas of the uprising and study the possibility of using fast vehicles, rather than those protected against stones, to enable the IDF to respond more quickly when fired upon.

Participants at the territories forum heard reports about an increase in the use of firearms—especially in the Gaza Strip—which peaked last week when eight firebombs were hurled at the Gaza police station. At the same time, there have been reports about a drop in street violence, which has mainly been stone throwing. The defense sources estimate that the continuation of the political process will lead to an increase in the number of firearms incidents by the Palestinian organizations which oppose any sort of political settlement. [passage omitted]

Intifadah Seen Becoming More Violent

TA2807114391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Jul 91 p A1

[Commentary by Dani Rubinstein: "A Return to the Features of the Armed Struggle"]

[Text] The sharp increase in terrorist activities in the territories is evidence of a return to the routine opposition to the occupation during the distant 1970's and 1980's, the period which preceded the civil revolt under the intifadah. During the peak of the popular uprising in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip there were no firearms

incidents. There have been almost no cases of planting of explosives, such as happened yesterday in the settlement of 'Otni'el in the Hebron hills. There were also no firing incidents, such as those of the past few days in Rafah, Hebron, the Morag junction, and the Ramallah region. They did not plant grenades, and there were no attempts to set off car bombs and commit other sabotage attacks, which at the time formed the backbone of the territories' struggle against Israeli rule. Since the intifadah began, the Unified National Command of the Uprising, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, and all the spokesmen for his organization have repeatedly called on the residents not to use firearms. The Arabs of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip usually have heeded them.

The events over the weekend and recent IDF [Israel Defense Forces] data show that there has been a sharp rise in the use of firearms and explosives, which constitutes a return to the traits of the "armed struggle," according to Palestinian terminology. There is firm confirmation of that in the political instructions issued by the "rejectionist" organizations to their colleagues in the territories. More and more leaflets issued by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] call for a return to terrorist activities. One can feel an increasingly violent mood and a growing tendency by young people to carry out violent acts. The opposition to Israeli rule apparently is being taken out of the hands of the wide public—which participated in the mass demonstrations, which joined the tax revolt and boycotted Israeli produce, and which refused to cooperate with the Israeli Government's institutions—and is being returned to limited underground squads, which have firearms and use terrorist methods.

The PLO leadership in Tunis has so far been careful not to listen to the aggressive demands of the masses in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. By using the "white (non-violent) intifadah," the PLO managed at the time to draw closer to the political negotiating table and to a dialogue between its representatives and those of the U.S. and European governments. Now that the PLO has been humiliated and distanced from the diplomatic contacts, the number of terrorist attacks has increased and they might become sharper and sharper.

Gaza Administrator Confers With Palestinian

TA2807141391 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
28 Jul 91 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Brigadier General Arye Shiffman, head of the Gaza Strip Civil Administration, last weekend summoned Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha for a private meeting. Al-Agha was a member of the three-man delegation that met U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in Israel. Brig. Gen. Shiffman warned al-Agha that the Palestinians must not insist that a representative of East Jerusalem

take part in the regional conference. Al-Agha told HA'ARETZ that Shiffman told him that if the members of the Palestinian delegation insist on a representative from East Jerusalem, the talks might possibly not be held at all. Al-Agha said that he told the head of the Civil Administration that the Palestinians will not retract their demand that such a representative attend the meeting, because such a concession would mean that Jerusalem is not negotiable. Al-Agha said he does not view Shiffman's remarks as a threat, because Shiffman carries out government policy.

Lieutenant General Hanan Rubin, an adviser and spokesman at the bureau of the coordinator of government activities in the territories, is refusing to publish the minutes of the conversation al-Agha held with Shiffman. According to him, Brig. Gen. Shiffman holds daily meetings with Palestinian figures from the Gaza Strip. The spokesman noted that the head of the Civil Administration has no authority to discuss political issues, and that he did not get approval for that from Major General Dani Rothschild [coordinator of government activities in the territories]. The head of the Civil Administration wanted to hear al-Agha's thoughts concerning the political process, Rubin said.

Two weeks ago, Brig. Gen. Shiffman initiated and held a meeting with Gaza Strip labor unions and pro-PLO nationalist organizations. Senior sources at the Civil Administration told HA'ARETZ that the head of the Civil Administration promised the people he met that he would help them set up a workers union in the Gaza Strip.

The heads of Civil Administration in the territories are authorized to meet Palestinian leaders, but they may not discuss political issues with them. Shiffman's meetings are reported to the coordinator of government activities in the territories, but in most cases Defense Minister Moshe Arens is unaware of them.

IDF, Egyptian Army Begin Survey of Border

TA2807091791 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 91 p 1

[Text] Units of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Egyptian Army have begun a joint survey of the border markers between Israel and Egypt.

The work is being carried out by the military surveying units of both countries and is aimed at determining and documenting the precise location of each marker along the over 200 kilometer-long border from Rafah to Tabah.

IDF sources say the work is being accomplished using the latest methods and tools, including satellites, in order to fix the location of the markers on maps and photographs and thereby avoid possible future border disputes between the two countries.

Identical files of the markers are to be kept by Israel, Egypt and the UN, to facilitate the replacement of any markers that are moved or covered over by shifting sands or flash floods.

So far there has been no dispute over the placement of the markers, the sources said, with the locations being determined by mutual agreement.

The joint effort was agreed upon several months ago at a meeting in Cairo between Brig. Gen. Hayim Yisrah, chief IDF foreign liaison officer, and his Egyptian counterpart, Gen. Muhammad Isma'il.

Police Recommend Der'i Prosecution on More Charges

TA2807053891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The police have again recommended that Interior Minister Arye Der'i be prosecuted, this time on charges of buying votes. Qol Yisra'el's police reporter Moshe Nussbaum says police have sent a file to the state prosecutor's office that contains allegations that Der'i transferred Interior Ministry funds to religious institutions via the Beersheba municipality to win support for his SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] party. The charges date from Der'i's tenure as director general of the Interior Ministry. Police say he handed over a check of 150,000 shekels to Rabbi Eli'ezer Abu-Hatzera two months before the 1988 Knesset election. The money was meant for Abu-Hatzera's yeshiva. The Beersheba municipality received the money despite its ineligibility. When Der'i visited Beersheba in September 1988 he was told that the money never arrived to the yeshiva. Police say that he immediately ordered the city accountant to issue a check for the amount and personally handed it over to Rabbi Abu-Hatzera.

Al-Masri Reiterates Position on PLO, Peace

JN2707191491 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has said that Jordan is adhering to its firm principles and will never renounce its constant principles.

In a statement to the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY, al-Masri said that the principles to which the government is committed are the ones that Jordan has been dealing with since 1960 and to which successive Jordanian governments have been adhering. These principles are represented by working to implement Resolution 242, which emphasizes the impermissibility of occupying the land of others by force; exchanging the territory for peace; and effecting Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem. Another principle of Jordanian policy is the call for convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East and recognizing the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The prime minister said that Jordan has a special consideration and exclusive importance because of its proximity to the Palestinian problem. Jordan has always been affected by this problem. What happens in the occupied Arab territories affects Jordan more than any other country. Therefore, Jordan's interaction with the political situation may greatly differ from that of other states.

The prime minister said that Jordan is committed to and abiding by what the Palestinians want and that the Jordanian Government is consulting and coordinating with the PLO vis-a-vis the current peace efforts. Those who say that Jordan has changed its position toward the PLO are making incorrect claims.

The prime minister referred to the difficult living conditions of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the repressive measures to which they are being subjected, threatening their existence, land, and identity.

On the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, al-Masri said: We in Jordan accept this delegation in principle, provided the PLO accepts it. We support the PLO position whether the Palestinians take part as an independent delegation or within a joint delegation. The prime minister emphasized the need to represent the people of Jerusalem in the delegation. He said: Despite the fact that the much talked about conference is not called an international conference, it is not a regional conference as it is rumored. It is a peace conference in which the 12 EC states have a representative and the UN secretary general has a representative. In addition, the two superpowers and the other parties to the dispute are represented. The background to this conference are Resolutions 242 and 338, aimed at reaching a comprehensive and permanent solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle.

The prime minister added that the final form of the conference has not yet been specified and the form of

Palestinian representation has not yet been decided. He said that Jordan obtained guarantees on the implications of Resolution 242; namely, that Israel withdraw from the occupied territories; that the Israeli annexation of Jerusalem is not recognized, although there is a problem regarding the participation of Jerusalem Palestinians in the delegation; and that Jerusalem Palestinians have the right to vote concerning their fate, just like other West Bank and Gaza Strip Palestinians.

'Informed Government Sources' Explain Position

JN2807052391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Jul 91 pp 1, 2

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Jordan's participation in the proposed Middle East peace conference will be aimed at securing its own national interests and those of its citizens, and the Kingdom has no intention whatsoever to represent Palestinians or give concessions on Palestinian rights and territories, informed government sources said Friday.

The sources also disclosed that there are no "preconditions" attached to the agreement that Jordan reached with the United States to participate in the proposed conference during Secretary of State James Baker's talks here last week.

Talking to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity, the sources pointed out that Jordan has a key role to play in peace talks by virtue of Israel's occupation of at least 600 square kilometres of Jordanian territory and the Kingdom's interest in access to water resources and agreements on border and security arrangements in addition to the status of Palestinians carrying Jordanian documents.

"There are issues that directly concern Jordan," said one of the sources.

The source said Jordan has no intention or desire to represent the Palestinian people or replace the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in negotiations.

"The PLO remains the only legitimate representative of Palestinians and the only party which can sign any agreements on Palestinian rights or the status of the Israeli-occupied territories," said the source.

"But we also reserve our right to protect our interests and negotiate our status as an Arab country which has been greatly affected by the Israeli occupation of the territories," the source added.

Jordan has said that it was willing to accept the idea of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if the Palestinian side makes an explicit request to this effect. The proposal was discussed during a visit to Jordan by a PLO delegation last week and Jordan is awaiting a formal PLO response to the idea, another senior official said.

"We cannot yet say what is happening to the idea of a joint delegation since we still have not received an answer from the PLO," said the official.

In any event, at no point during the negotiations will Jordan assume the role of a Palestinian negotiator, the source said. "It will be a completely independent Palestinian decision in all matters concerned," he said.

His Majesty King Husayn has repeatedly said that Jordan was committed to its 1988 decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the Israeli-occupied West Bank and that the Kingdom will not negotiate in place of the PLO even within the framework of a joint delegation.

The official source said that there was still a "misconception about Jordan's role in peace talks." He directly referred to a statement issued by the Lower House of Parliament rejecting all American initiatives for peace and denouncing the "double standard" of the U.S.

He also referred to comments by Arab nationalist and Muslim Brotherhood deputies, in last Wednesday's House session, in which they accused the government of preparing to abandon Palestinian national rights.

"Neither do we not have the intention to do any such thing nor do we have the right or jurisdiction to do so," the official said.

"The rights of Palestinians, whether to territory or to self-determination, are within the jurisdiction of the Palestinian representatives," the official added.

"Why are Lebanon, Egypt and Syria entering negotiations along with the PLO?" the official asked, adding that each of these countries wanted to ensure its own interests, whether territorial or strategic, within the framework of a conference and through bilateral talks.

"Jordan," the official said, "also has its own interests to consider and cannot stand on the sidelines while the future of this part of the region is being decided."

Al-Masri Explains Political Moves to Deputies

JN2807185691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The House of Representatives and the government of Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri held a special meeting this evening. They discussed the current political situations involving Jordan and the Arab and Islamic nations.

House Speaker Dr. 'Abd-al-Latif 'Arabiyyat told the JORDANIAN NEWS AGENCY that the prime minister made a comprehensive review of these situations and explained in detail the current state of affairs and Arab dealings with all political developments concerning the Palestine question. Dr. 'Arabiyyat said the deputies discussed the various aspects of the political moves with the government. The debate was summed up in the need for cooperation between the executive and legislative

branches on these issues. It was also agreed that the two branches would hold other meetings to follow up on the subject.

Editorial on U.S. 'Pledges' on Peace Settlement

JN2807072891 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jul 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "Will the U.S. Administration Commit Itself to its Pledges and Guarantees to the Palestinians and the Arabs?"]

[Text] After the prime minister's assurances that the U.S. Administration has promised Jordan that the settlement will be based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and on the land for peace principle—in other words on full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab occupied territories—and after reviewing the U.S. Administration's pledges to Syria, Egypt, and the Palestinian delegation that met with Baker more than once, it becomes clear that the U.S. Administration has made the same pledges to the concerned Arab parties as it did to Jordan.

After Baker's tour of the region, Syria, Egypt, and the Palestinian delegation have stressed that the U.S. Administration has promised through Bush's letters to the Arab leaders and through the talks with the U.S. secretary that the settlement would be based on international legitimacy resolutions and on the principle of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

What draws attention is that Shamir and the pillars of his government have not ceased to declare in broad daylight their refusal to withdraw from a single inch of the occupied territories and have not stopped placing obstacles and hindrances before the settlement and work to abort it.

Although all Arab parties have accepted the U.S. initiative, the Shamir government continues to procrastinate, evade, and delay its reply to President Bush's letter, hoping to create new events and givens in the region that would make the U.S. Administration renege on continuing its efforts and on its role in the settlement.

Now that the U.S. Administration has requested the Shamir government to send its reply to Bush's letter before the Moscow summit between Presidents Bush and Gorbachev the day after tomorrow—in order to extend the joint U.S.-USSR invitation to convene the peace conference in October—Israel faces difficult choices. It could either accept the U.S. initiative, reject it, or delay the reply until after the Moscow summit. This would weaken the momentum for peace and paralyze the settlement efforts.

Well informed U.S. sources close to President Bush expect the invitations to a peace conference to be announced during the Bush-Gorbachev summit in Moscow, whether Israel accepts or rejects the U.S. initiative. This is a big indicator that the U.S. Administration is sincere in achieving a settlement.

We would like to stress here that the ball is still in the U.S. court. The U.S. Administration alone can force Israel to heed the will of the international community and accept the Bush initiative, thus showing the required flexibility in accepting the international legitimacy resolutions to attain a satisfactory settlement for all parties to the conflict.

This can only happen if sufficient U.S. pressure is put on the Shamir government. It is important for the Bush administration to commit itself to its pledges based on the international legitimacy resolutions. Will it do so?!

Editorial on Palestinian-Jordanian Delegation

JN2807095191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
28 Jul 91 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Basics of the Jordanian Position"]

[Text] Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri has explained beyond any misinterpretation that Jordan is committed to all the basics that have since 1967 formed the core of Jordanian policy toward all aspects of the regional conflict, including the Palestine question. Jordan is committed to work for implementing UN Resolution 242, which emphasizes the inadmissibility of the occupation of others' territory by force, the exchange of land for peace, and Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, including Arab Jerusalem.

Among the basics of Jordanian policy is the continued call, coupled with tireless political work, for convening an international Middle East peace conference on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to be attended by all parties concerned in resolving the conflict in the region, including the PLO in its capacity as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

When Jordan commits itself to such basics and defines its foreign policy and its political movement according to them, it does so because of its special status that is basically derived from its close connection with the Palestine question. Jordan is the Arab country most affected by what is going on in the occupied territories, and all Palestinian developments are reflected on it. Therefore, this country deals with this question differently from all other Arab countries.

Nevertheless, Jordan is committed to and abides by what the Palestinians themselves want. Therefore, it is eager to continue consultation and coordination with the PLO on the current peace efforts. Hence, anybody who claims that Jordan has changed its position toward the PLO will be mistaken. Based on such an unwavering commitment, Jordan has accepted in principle the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation if this is acceptable to the PLO. Jordan will continue to support the PLO whether the Palestinians participate in the peace talks in an independent or a joint delegation, provided that the inhabitants of Arab Jerusalem are represented in either delegation.

Party Demands PLO Participation in Peace Talks

JN2907072991 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
29 Jul 91 p 3

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Text] Amman—In the wake of ongoing attempts to bring Israel to the negotiating table with Arab governments, a left-wing Jordanian party has voiced objections to the peace proposals put forth by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

"Any proposals that do not include the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in any talks about the future of the Palestinians are not acceptable," said Secretary General of the Jordanian People's Democratic Party (JPDP) Taysir al-Zibri.

At the second anniversary rally of the party, held at the Professional Association Complex, Mr. al-Zibri and other speakers told supporters that surrender to American and Israeli dictates would not be acceptable to a democratic Jordan.

"If the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, decides on who it wants in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and if it agrees on the concept in principle, then we will support that. If not, we will not accept that a Palestinian delegation will be picked by Israel," Mr. al-Zibri said.

"Conditions for peace cannot be imposed or it will not be peace, but a dictate," he told a cheering crowd of about 500, mostly young people.

While Mr. al-Zibri and other speakers at the rally accepted a land for peace solution on the basis of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, all said that Mr. Baker's proposal should include the PLO in one form or another.

Representing the eight-member Democratic Bloc in Parliament, Faris al-Nabulsi said that the peace proposals without a PLO presence were "no peace talks."

"These peace proposals are a politics of surrender," he said, echoing the general mood of Islamist, leftist and pan-Arab parties in Jordan. "There should be no end to the economic embargo on Israel while it occupies our lands and there is no discussion of negotiating the status of the capital of the Palestinian state—Jerusalem."

While other speakers, such as Arab Nationalist Bajhat Abu-Gharbiyah, urged Jordanians to protect national unity and democratic principles, no speaker suggested viable alternatives to the peace process.

The JPDP is a member of the Jordanian Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance (JANDA) which is an umbrella organisation for both pan-Arab and leftist parties in Jordan. The founders of the JPDP were once prominent members of a Palestinian party the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). After the Jordanian government decision to politically and economically

disengage itself from the West Bank, the founders of the JPDP were among the first to follow up on the decision by creating a new and separate Jordanian Party.

Like the Palestinian party, the JPDP is a Marxist-Lennist party. They distinguish themselves from some other leftist parties in Jordan in that they have in principle accepted the existence of the state of Israel and call for a two-state solution, one Arab and one Jewish on the land of Palestine.

But the JPDP, like other leftist and pan-Arab parties, has been torn in its stand towards the latest rounds of peace proposals, feeling that any peace in which Israel can decide who it will negotiate with is equivalent to a Middle Eastern version of a Treaty of Versailles.

Editorial on Moscow Summit, 'Israeli Defiance'

JN3007085191 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
30 Jul 91 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "The Moscow Summit and the Israeli Defiance"]

[Text] All the repeatedly declared U.S. wishes to receive an Israeli reply to the proposed peace conference before the U.S.- Soviet summit have failed to materialize because the summit will be held in Moscow today without receiving any Israeli reply. This reflects the reality of the U.S. approach, which is based on appeasement and leniency toward Israel's mounting hardline position. It also reflects a wild Israeli desire to avoid any commitment toward the conference issue before Yitzhaq Shamir receives more advanced concessions not only from the Arabs but also from the Americans themselves.

Therefore, we believe that the U.S.-Soviet summit, which is scheduled to open in Moscow today, is demanded to respond to the series of Israeli maneuvers and to take control of things from Shamir if the two superpowers have the desire and determination to utilize the available chance for peace in the Middle East.

It is hoped that the Americans and the Soviets would overcome the Israeli obstacle to convening the peace conference by extending an open invitation to a Middle East peace conference at a fixed time and venue, especially since the United States and the Soviet Union are the two countries that are destined to sponsor the realization of peace in this part of the world. Otherwise, the Americans will have to wait forever if they continue their current appeasing policy, waiting for an Israeli reply that would open the door wide for the peace process. The Soviets will continue to act as spectators if they, along with the Americans, fail to conclude that an open invitation to the proposed peace conference should be made and that Israel should be exposed as the only party rejecting peace.

While we are not expecting much from the Moscow summit on the Middle East, we still hope that the two countries, which are likely to patronize the Mideast

peace conference, would be able to enforce the international community's will, implement the international legitimacy principles, and subsequently end the mounting Israeli defiance and violation of the international law, the Security Council resolutions, and the legitimacy principles which are applicable to all countries except pampered Israel.

Brotherhood Condemns Attacks on National Security

JN2707073591 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
27 Jul 92 p 1

[By Maryam Shahin]

[Excerpts] Amman—The Muslim Brotherhood Friday condemned all attacks and threats against Jordan's national security and said it had to know full facts before commenting on a government statement charging an underground group with carrying out a series of attacks in Jordan.

"We, the Muslim Brotherhood, condemn all actions against the security of the country," said Sheikh 'Abd-al-Rahman Khalifah, spiritual leader of the movement in Jordan. "I cannot comment on the arrests reported by the government until I have full details of the affair," he told the Jordan Times.

Ziyad Abu-Ghanimah, a spokesman for the Brotherhood which is at odds with the government of Tahir al-Masri, also said his movement was not espousing violence.

"We will confront (the government) through democracy," Mr. Abu-Ghanimah was quoted as saying by Reuters. "We don't believe in using force. Dialogue is the best way."

The identity of the clandestine group cited in the a government statement remained unclear Friday with all known political factions disclaiming any association with the group.

The group, according to the government statement issued Thursday, mainly comprised Islamic fundamentalists calling themselves Holy Fighters in the Name of God and the Prophet Muhammad's Army, some of whom have already been arrested. [passage omitted]

The statement raised immediate suspicion against extremist groups such as the Islamic Liberation Front, the Islamic Jihad-Bayt al-Maqdis and several others. But spokesmen for these groups immediately denied that they were linked in any way to the attacks and attempts outlined in the government statement.

The Prophet Muhammad's Army is believed to be the military wing of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, and it was not immediately clear whether the reference was to the same group. [passage omitted]

Last Wednesday a member of the Brotherhood movement in Parliament demanded a clarification from the government on what he called "the uncalled-for

storming of homes of Islamists." The deputy was apparently referring to the arrests of some Islamists believed to be connected with the Prophet Muhammad's Army group. [passage omitted]

Trade Embargo on Iraq 'Costing Jordan Dearly'

JN2807104291 Amman Jordan Television Network
in English 1900 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Jordan's economy remains under the effect of the Gulf crisis as the UN-imposed trade embargo against Iraq continues to take its toll on the Gulf of Aqaba and the country's maritime business. Allied navies in the Red Sea are still reported intercepting and searching all vessels destined for al-'Aqaba.

[Begin recording] [Maha al-Sha'ir] Over the past 11 years al-'Aqaba, Jordan's only port, has been busy with most of its transit cargo sent to Iraq. In 1989 alone 70 percent of the cargo unloaded at the port was consigned to Iraq. One of the first results of the Gulf crisis was that al-'Aqaba totally lost all this business overnight. However, the effects of the Gulf crisis are still strongly felt, and continuous ship interceptions are causing increasing problems for the port of al-'Aqaba and Jordan's economy.

[Tawfiq Qa'war, chairman of the Shipping Agents Association] The searching has taken a negative turn as of June last when the United Nations forces insist all cargo, a hundred percent of the containers on a ship, must be searched and must be made accessible, and this is physically impossible. If ships cannot come into al-'Aqaba and the forces insist on a hundred percent accessibility, the only other alternative will be for those lines to abandon al-'Aqaba cargo in other Red Sea ports, and then to reship these goods on the expense and the responsibility of the consignee, the importer in Jordan.

[Maha Al-Sha'ir] Such difficulties have now led shipping insurance companies to impose an inspection surcharge, which went into effect at the beginning of this month. This will cost Jordan an additional \$10 million a year.

[Qa'war] And this will affect the cost of goods in Jordan. It will affect our exports for which we are striving to increase every time.

[Maha Al-Sha'ir] The costs and hassles are both making international shipping agencies change their minds about shipping goods to al-'Aqaba port.

[Muhammad al-Sumadi, al-'Aqaba Port Director] We have been approached and informed that some of a good number of the regular lines who have been coming to al-'Aqaba for the past 25 years, they have been annoyed because of the disruption of their work, and they informed us that unless such a process is ceased to exist

then they will have to stop, and of course this has repercussions not only for the port of al-'Aqaba, but for the whole Jordanian economy.

[Ibrahim al-Sayigh, factory manager] We don't have raw material at all. Our factory is stopped for three weeks now.

[Khalid Lattuf, factory manager] If we do not receive our goods within one week, I think we might come to a 50 percent stop in our machines. And if the situation goes on for more than two or three weeks, we will come to a complete stop.

[Maha Al-Sha'ir] The adviser of the Chamber of Industry commented on the situation.

[Ali al-Dajani, Chamber of Industry adviser] Of course, our government is very well aware of the situation, but we have to press hard, and I don't think there is a way now at the moment to reach a result except by persuasion and diplomatic talks with the Security Council and the American authorities.

[Maha al-Sha'ir] Still waiting for some changes while the shipping business is still facing problems—problems that are costing Jordan dearly. [end recording]

State Security To Try 'Subversive' Group Members

JN2907175391 Amman Jordan Television Network
in Arabic 1717 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul has said that members of the organization that was planning subversive operations will shortly stand trial before the State Security Court, in accordance with the law.

[Begin recording] [Correspondent 'Ali Salim Dhiyab] Mr. Minister: It was reported today that the organization that was planning subversive operations will be prosecuted. Which court will hear the case of this organization?

[Al-Subul] I think that there is no question that this is a crime or a series of crimes compromising the country's internal security and consequently its external security. Therefore, it is for the State Security Court to try the case, according to the law presently in force. It is a provisional court that convenes when the need arises.

[Dhiyab] Will it be long before the organization appears before the court?

[Al-Subul] I think the investigation is about complete, but the delay is being caused by procedures which may take a week or two to finish. These legal measures will be completed before the charges are brought against the defendants by the court to which I referred, in accordance with provisions of the existing laws of the land. [end recording]

Prime Minister Departs for Talks in Damascus

NC3007083691 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0815 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Prime Minister 'Umar Karami left for Damascus today to meet with a number of officials there. Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni also is expected to visit Damascus today.

Paper Publishes Group's Threat on German Hostages

NC2907121091 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic
25 Jul 91 pp 1, 9

[Statement by the Mujahidin for Freedom Organization; place and date not given—received by AL-NAHAR at 2030 on 24 July, accompanied by a Polaroid photograph of hostage Heinrich Struebig]

[Text] In the name of the God of mujahidin.

Muhammad Hamadi, O patient mujahid: You are in our heart. Be patient. There is no strength but in God. Greetings to you and to your brother 'Abbas from the honest mujahidin.

We remind you of God Almighty's saying: But they never lost heart if they met with disaster in God's way, nor did they weaken (in will) nor give in. And God loves those who are firm and steadfast. [Koranic verse]

They have imprisoned you because you are a mujahid for the sake of Islam, but you have also imprisoned them and become a beacon for those seeking freedom in the world.

O brother, they have become arrogant and haughty on earth and sowed repression and corruption, but we will continue the struggle and the jihad until we destroy them and remove the yoke of their injustice from the oppressed of the world.

Our mujahidin brothers, do not weaken or be sad. You are the superior ones if you remain faithful.

Following the tragic developments and the attempts to kill the mujahidin brothers in Germany, we clarify the following:

Since the arrest of the brothers in Germany, we have tried all courses of reason and logic. We have tried to tackle this problem in a way that would have positive results for all. We responded to all the mediation efforts and initiatives and released hostages in a bid to secure the brothers' release. Germany's policy was one of deceit and betrayal, however, and it violated the agreements and accords. It promised us, through the mediators, that it would release the brothers after the other hostages were released. We pursued the courses of calm diplomacy and told it we did not want to be hostile to Germany or to be at war with it because our problem is with the United States, but it insisted on being the U.S. lackey and staged mock trials with lying witnesses. Muhammad and his brother 'Abbas were sentenced

unjustly. Germany has always promised the mediators they would be released, and we remained patient when our hopes were constantly dashed. How can we deal with someone who does not keep his word or honor? Their words were lies, their policy was deception, and their promises were treachery. We acted with restraint and pursued all positive courses until they were exhausted, because there was time enough for other approaches and one must always try. All this changed, though, when foul attempts were made to assassinate the brothers. This will have the most serious consequences.

We announce the following:

1. We have been holding two German spies for a number of years. We have kept this a secret for the sake of reaching an honorable exchange away from the media spotlight. Regrettably, however, they only understand the language of blood and violence. We will not hesitate to resort to this language, because we will not allow our mujahidin to be mistreated.

2. The German Government must provide specific and irrefutable evidence about the condition of the imprisoned mujahidin through the mediators (Syria and Iran) within 48 hours, or we will resort to a very negative course after which regrets will be useless.

Finally, we remind Germany and the United States that mountains disappear but the determination of mujahidin does not. We have chosen the road of cutting off the hands of the United States and this will be the fate also of those who follow its course. Those who believe that the United States is the master of the world will, at the appropriate time, witness its humiliation.

Our mujahidin brothers Muhammad and 'Abbas:

If ye are suffering hardships, they are suffering similar hardships; but ye have hope from God, while they have none. (Surat al-Nisa') [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Mujahidin for Freedom

Junblatt Discusses South, Peace Conference

NC2707152091 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain
in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Excerpts] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt today gave a wide-ranging interview to the Voice of Lebanon in which he said: I hope that one day we will be able to build a modern state in which there is no trace of backwardness. The current wave of optimism will unfortunately fade, he added, and I may sound a bit pessimistic, but external assistance has not been forthcoming and the Arab and international fund to help Lebanon have come to nothing so far. [passage omitted]

Junblatt warned against Israel's attempt to make Lebanon agree to arrangements not in UN Security Council Resolution 425. Junblatt also said that Jazzin has to do with America and Israel because Major General Antoine Lahd implements Israeli policy.

Junblatt said that the government has made great strides to date. Statements were made that were overoptimistic, he noted, but we have been 80 percent successful in resolving the issue of the Palestinians and their weapons. I ask the United States and Israel: What more are we supposed to do? If the Lebanese Army is supposed to strike at the Lebanese national resistance, let them tell us that. More specifically, if we are expected to strike at the Hizballah, let Mr. Crocker tell us so we know what to do.

Junblatt said that the resistance has a right to continue its operations as long as Israel is on Lebanese soil. Junblatt warned that Israel may try to drag us into endless talks while settling more than 1,000 Jewish immigrants per day. Junblatt had this to say about the international conference:

[Begin recording] [Junblatt] In my opinion, no U.S. solution will satisfy the aspirations of the Palestinians. America is dragging us over Israel's thorny tracks and we are just attempting to preserve decorum and put a brave face on things. Where does this lead us? We have agreed to Israel's conditions in one way or the other. The Americans rejected the idea of having a PLO representative at the talks. The Arabs agreed. They rejected the participation of a delegation from East Jerusalem, meaning Faysal al-Husayni and his colleagues. The Arabs agreed. We will end up by negotiating on whether we, Muslims and Christians, will be praying in Jerusalem under an Israeli or an (international) flag. This is where matters are going. The process will be void of any substance. [passage omitted]

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you see a role for Lebanon in a peace conference?

[Junblatt] We have agreed. What else do you want? We have agreed. Oh, my God, how fast we did that. It was as if the course of international politics would change if we had said no. U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said something to someone who participated in the famous seminar in Washington—that seminar in which we changed the course of world history. Kelly said: Well, you want to implement Resolution 425 alone, go ahead and take your case to the International Court of Justice.

We had no other choice but to participate in the conference. We are obliged to attend it together with the remnants, with the Arab [word indistinct]. Look at Syria. We have to. What role does Egypt have, other than raising the Palestinian issue just to keep it alive? Egypt has an official agreement with Israel. Their role is finished. As for Jordan, King Husayn will once again take charge and lead the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Talks on Sharing Common Waters With Syria Begin
NC2807185691 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1400 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Muhammad Yusuf Baydun, minister of electricity and water resources, announced that Lebanon and Syria

have begun negotiations on the sharing of their common waters and on projects that are to be carried out on the Orontes River, which the two countries share.

After meeting with Syrian Irrigation Minister Engineer 'Abd-al-Rahman Madani and his delegation at the Park Hotel in Shtawrah today, Minister Baydun said the meeting also dealt with the agenda of the summit conference on water that is scheduled to convene in Istanbul. He said that Lebanon and Syria exchanged views and that their views were identical and harmonious.

In turn, the Syrian irrigation minister said the discussions concerned the construction of dams by which Lebanon and Syria could exploit the waters they share.

On the Lebanese side, the discussions were attended by Ambassador Ja'far Mu'awi, director of economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and by senior officials of the Ministry of Electricity and Water Resources. Attending on the Syrian side were Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Ambassador Muhammad Munib al-Rifa'i, director of the secondary administration [al-Idarah al-Thaniyah] at the Syrian Foreign Ministry.

Amal Claims Responsibility for 29 Jul Attack

NC2907163091 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1530 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The Amal Movement said that one of its groups detonated an explosive charge that hit a joint Israeli-Lahd patrol as it was passing on the al-Tayyibah-Dayr Syrian road inside the occupied strip this morning. The explosion, the movement said, left three patrol personnel killed and four others injured.

The Amal Movement says that the occupation forces responded to the operation by shelling Bra'shit, Zawtar, and Mazra'at al-Hamra, which injured some residents.

No Entry to Jazzin; Mock Raids in Sidon

NC2907113291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
1030 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in al-Shuf has reported that the Israeli occupation forces and their agents this morning closed the al-Shuf-Jazzin road at the agents' checkpoint, barring any entry into Jazzin. People were, however, allowed to leave. This move comes at a time when the occupation forces are intensifying their military measures in the east Sidon area in a manner unprecedented since 1985.

At about 1020 today, enemy warplanes carried out mock raids over Sidon, the camps, and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

Two Said Killed in Israeli Bombardment

NC2907193391 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1915 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] The southern villages of Habbush, Kafr Rumman, Tulin, Bra'shit, and Shaqra came under Israeli

bombardment this evening. Two people were killed and seven others were injured. [passage omitted]

Palestinians Agree on Civil, Social Rights Paper

NC3007102491 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 0900 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] AL-SAFIR has reported that the PLO, the Palestinian National Salvation Front, and Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council have agreed on a joint working paper outlining the civil and social rights of the Palestinians in Lebanon. The paper includes a preamble which refers to the status of the Palestinian people and their presence in Lebanon as temporary guests subject to Lebanese laws and sovereignty, and it expresses support for the Lebanese Government in spreading its sovereignty throughout its territory.

According to AL-SAFIR, the draft includes articles regarding the Palestinian people's civil and social rights, and requests a response on how the Palestinians can be treated like the Lebanese, securing all rights except for citizenship and obligatory military service. The paper calls for a Lebanese body to deal with the affairs of the Palestinian refugees, proposing that such body could be a committee, bureau, directorate, or even a ministry.

University Professors Suspend Strike

NC2907195691 *Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic* 1915 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Lebanese University professors announced suspension of their strike this evening. Education Minister Butrus Harb told the Voice of Lebanon that the suspension of the strike is a positive stand by the professors. He stressed that no deal has been struck on the issue. He expressed his appreciation of this stand and voiced his hope that the cabinet will approve the professors' demands at its next meeting.

\$15 Billion Said Needed for Reconstruction

NC2707173191 (Clandestine) *Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon* 1630 GMT 27 Jul 91

[Text] Finance Minister 'Ali al-Khalil has said that Lebanon needs \$15 billion to rebuild, noting that he does not expect foreign aid to be sufficient. This disclosure came in a paper entitled "The Second Republic," which he contributed today to the first international conference of American University graduates.

Minister al-Khalil called on the United States to pressure Israel to implement UN Security Council Resolution 425 and said that the Lebanese have a right to resist Israeli aggression and liberate the south.

The minister emphasized the need for administrative reform, saying that the government formed special committees and that each of these will prepare a report on every ministry.

In conclusion, Minister al-Khalil called for turning Lebanon into one electoral constituency and for abrogating political sectarianism. He warned against meddling with the civil status law before that is done.

Defense Ministry—No Arms Exports to Yugoslavia

NC2907162191 *Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic* 1530 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The Defense Ministry's Information Department has categorically denied reports by some newspapers published outside Lebanon concerning arms exports to Yugoslavia. The reports in question cited what was described as sources close to the Defense Ministry as saying that both the Lebanese Forces and the Progressive Socialist Party had exported weapons to Yugoslavia. The Defense Ministry urged the news media to be accurate in their reporting.

Talas Receives Pakistani Air Force Chief

JN2807184391 Damascus Syrian Arab Television
Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] In his office at noon today, General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received Lieutenant General Farooq Feroz Khan, chief of the Pakistani Air Force, and his delegation. The commander of the Syrian Air Force and Air Defense attended the meeting. They discussed friendship and cooperation between the two friendly Arab Syrian and Pakistani Armies. They also considered how these ties could be developed in the common interest of the two friendly countries and armies.

Vice President Returns From Afghanistan

JN2907164091 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpt] Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, vice president and vice chairman of the National Progressive Front, today returned to Damascus from Kabul following a visit of several days to Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

AL-BA'TH Views al-Asad-al-Hirawi Talks

JN2807102391 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic
Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 28 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Importance of the Damascus Meeting," AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that the visit of the Lebanese delegation led by President Ilyas al-Hirawi to Damascus yesterday was part of the consultations under way between the two fraternal countries. The paper adds: There is no doubt that each meeting between leader al-Asad and President al-Hirawi produces further accomplishments that enhance the unity of Lebanon's lands and people and push forward the reconciliation efforts. Past events have shown that meetings on all levels between the two fraternal countries open the doors wide for consolidating and bolstering the ties of cooperation between the two countries. Consequently, these meetings support the legitimate government's efforts to consummate the reconciliation march, which has scored enormous accomplishments that confused Lebanon's enemies who oppose the unity of its lands and people.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Yesterday's meeting between Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Ilyas al-Hirawi dealt with a host of issues that are of concern to both countries, especially those related to the efforts currently under way to achieve a just and durable peace in the region. Likewise, the talks tackled the national reconciliation march and the issue of implementing the international Resolution 425, which demands Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. Moreover, the talks revolved around

means of enhancing and developing the ties of cooperation between Syria and Lebanon in all spheres.

The paper says: It goes without saying that the termination of the Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon is an international responsibility, especially since Resolution 425 was issued by the UN Security Council. As for the legitimate authority, it has done what it was supposed to do in implementing the articles contained in the al-Ta'if accord—the accord which won the support and backing of the entire world.

Concluding its editorial, AL-BA'TH says: It remains to be asserted that implementing Resolution 425 has become a pressing issue in view of its importance for the efforts aimed at consecrating the unity of Lebanon's lands and people and extending state authority over the entire Lebanese territory, especially since the implementation of the resolution will help the legitimate authority. Indeed, it will provide this authority with all the conditions and circumstances required to reconstruct Lebanon and build a unified, strong, and powerful homeland.

TISHRIN on Moscow Summit Agenda for Peace

JN2907062491 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio
Network in Arabic 0330 gmt 29 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] In a comment under the headline "The Moscow Summit and International Reconciliation," the newspaper TISHRIN says: The Bush-Gorbachev summit, which starts today, takes place under special international circumstances that make it necessary for the two presidents to play a responsible role in paving the way for a new world order based on peace and security and governed by international legitimacy through its authorized bodies.

If "Signing the START Agreement" is the title of the summit, the other issues on the agenda are no less important. Perhaps the most prominent is preparing for the proposed Middle East peace conference. The course of events affirms that the Moscow summit will open the door to those who wish to achieve a just and comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, as observers expect the two presidents, Soviet and American, to call for the peace conference during the summit and as the foreign ministers of the two countries participated in a joint mission for regional peace.

TISHRIN continues: It is certain that the summit's success in activating peace efforts in the Middle East and confusing Israeli schemes to hamper a settlement will leave a very good impression regarding the soundness of the international reconciliation march, the serious desire to establish peace, and the unity of reactions regarding various regional and international issues. Israeli belligerence regarding the peace process and attempts to place obstructions before it constitute a real obstacle whose objective is to paralyze the will of the two presidents,

Bush and Gorbachev. If Israel seeks to delay matters, deceive, and hinder the process, this clearly expresses the Zionist nature which can only survive in an atmosphere of war and aggression, and cling to the occupation of Arab territories—something that radically contradicts with the principles of peace and its real course.

U.S. Urged To Shoulder Responsibility for Peace

JN3007070791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0330 GMT 30 Jul 91

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria Supports Just Peace," the newspaper TISHRIN says: Arab and international circles have received with great satisfaction leader President Hafiz al-Asad's interview with THE WASHINGTON POST and NEWSWEEK and its contents regarding the affirmations of Syria's desire to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

These circles considered the clarifications given by President al-Asad as a fresh contribution toward boosting the peace process and preparing the atmosphere for a conference that would include all concerned sides. In particular, President al-Asad revealed without any ambiguity or vagueness the readiness of Syria and the Arabs to implement all the requirements for peace in return for full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories. In other words, Syria and the Arabs reject partial and unilateral deals and settlements that do not establish true peace. They aspire to a comprehensive settlement on all levels of the struggle to end the tragedy in the Middle East, which has been deteriorating for over 40 years, and to save the Palestinian people from suffering. One of the basic conditions of this comprehensive settlement is the withdrawal from the occupied territories and the realization of a just settlement of the Palestine question.

President al-Asad affirmed that such a settlement must stem from UN resolutions and international legitimacy. Syria has responded positively to President Bush's proposals after the U.S. Administration adhered to these resolutions that explicitly stipulate the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by force. He noted that the U.S. great role in realizing a just and comprehensive settlement comes from its importance in the world as a superpower and as an international decisionmakers, and from the huge military, economic, and financial aid it provides to

Israel, without which Israel could never have faced the Arab nation and achieved its current military superiority.

TISHRIN continues: Such a situation, which creates a great imbalance of power as a result of the latest international changes, dictates that the United States should shoulder its responsibilities toward the issue of regional peace. It requires that Israel take real action toward reaching just and peaceful solutions. President al-Asad warned Israel clearly that all weapons, irrespective of how advanced they are, cannot impose capitulationist solutions on the Arabs and that there is no alternative to real peace in the region which realizes the wishes and hopes of the people and puts an end to the Israeli occupation.

The newspaper concludes: From this perspective, Israel is required to submit to international resolutions and prove its peaceful intentions, if it is honest in its policy, by stopping settlement in the occupied territories and ending its widespread aggressive expansion.

Communist Party Organizations Announce Merger

JN2807170091 Damascus AL-BATH in Arabic 22 Jul 91 pp 1, 11

[Text] Damascus—SANA—It has been announced here that the Syrian Communist Party and the Syrian Communist Party-Base Organizations [al-Hizb al-Shuyu'i al-Suri Munazzamat al-Qa'idah] have merged under the name of the Syrian Communist Party.

In a joint statement, the two parties said the merger is meant to bolster national identity, back efforts to raise Syria's defensive capabilities, support Syria's national and pan-Arab position toward endeavors to resolve the Middle East crisis on the basis of international resolutions, and enhance the role and implement the charter of the National Progressive Front.

The statement said the unification decision was made at an important stage in the life of Syria and its people. It reflects the will of the communists and is in line with the wishes of the nationalist and progressive forces, the requirements of political, social, and democratic development in Syria, and the tasks of national struggle.

The merger, added the statement, will be approved in the seventh united congress, which should be convened by the end of this year at the latest. The congress will consist of the total number of delegates representing each party.

Afghanistan

Reportage on Fighting in Herat Province

15 Kabul Soldiers Killed

BK3007044091 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Reports speak of fierce fighting between Afghan mujahidin and Kabul regime troops near the capital, Kabul, causing a cut in the power supply to the city.

The mujahidin carried out several operations against Kabul regime troops in many places in Helmand, Samangan, and Badakhshan Provinces in which heavy losses of life and property of the Kabul regime troops have been reported. The mujahidin have captured five security posts in the area of Tangi, (Bagjan), and (Kanjak) in Lowgar Province. The mujahidin have also captured a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Another report says mujahidin forces have killed at least 15 Kabul regime troops in an operation in Zende Jan of Herat Province. They also have destroyed some heavy vehicles of the Kabul regime troops.

Fighting Leaves Kabul Without Power

BK2907125891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT
29 Jul 91

[Text] Kabul, July 29 (AFP)—Intense fighting near the Afghan national capital has crippled power supplies to Kabul, leaving large areas without electricity and causing fears of a rebel attack on the city, officials said here Monday.

Power supplies failed early Sunday after mujahedin guerrillas attacked the region of Surobi, some 75 kilometres (46 miles) east of Kabul, damaging at least two of the three power plants in the hydroelectric complex there, powermen said.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed the collapse of the electricity grid to a rebel attack, but could not say how extensive was the damage that cut supplies to this city of 1.5 million people.

"There have been some clashes near Surobi and that is why the power supply has been crippled," the official said after hospitals, communications and other vital installations reported no power Monday.

The electricity went off after two powerful explosions were heard in Kabul early Sunday and military officials said the reports were from the after-shock of the launch of Luna missiles at Surobi where heavy fighting was underway.

It was not known if the powerhouses were hit by government-fired missiles or in the resistance onslaught on the fortress-like complex which is equidistant from Kabul and the battle-scarred city of Jalalabad.

Other government officials in Kabul confirmed that two generating units were out of action and that the government was supplying rationed electricity through gas- or coal-fired units to a very select group of homes and offices in the national capital.

But power failed completely in the entire Kabul area around 1:45 p.m. Monday and embassies and military installations also reported no power.

"We just do not have supplies for the people and only embassies and certain offices and homes are being given electricity," said an engineer, who could not confirm reports that rebels had also damaged facilities inside the city.

Hospitals worked under dim lighting caused by lower voltage output early Monday and in a children's infirmary doctors were seen operating in surgeries without any electricity.

"We will find out if the damage is large," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said as soldiers returning from the combat zone said the area was under heavy fire.

Afghan troops fired surface missiles and shells into suspected rebel camps in an overnight attack beginning Sunday to preempt any possible mujahedin thrust on the capital.

Several residential districts in Kabul also reported a collapse of water supplies due to the power failure and people voiced fears that the guerrillas might use the darkness in the city to launch raids on it.

"We will sleep with guns tonight," said a former soldier working with the Foreign Ministry as there was no sign of any restoration of electricity.

In the Pakistani city of Peshawar, the headquarters of the mujahedin, a guerrilla spokesman confirmed the destruction of two power plants by the rebels during an ongoing offensive in the Surobi area which began Sunday.

Rival Mujahidin Factions Clash in Laghman

LD2807163791 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Eleven persons from the extremist groups of Golboddin [Hekmatyar] and [Abdul Rasul] Sayaff were killed in the course of heavy armed clashes which took place among these two rival groups yesterday in some parts of Alingar district, Laghman Province. According to a report by the BAKHTAR military section, in the course of these clashes, during which both sides used surface-to-surface missiles against each other's positions and centers, a number of them were injured. 15 armed men from the Sayyaf group were captured by the rival group. Heavy fighting still continues among the rival groups in some parts of this district.

Najibollah Pins Hopes on U.S.-Soviet Summit

LD2807202991 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, has sent separate detailed messages addressed to His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev and His Excellency George Bush on the occasion of the forthcoming summit between the leaders of the USSR and the United States in Moscow.

Having expressed best wishes and hopes for the successes of the forthcoming summit between the leaders of the countries, the letters say: Among the issues that are included in the leaders' summit, one is to contribute to the peaceful political solution of regional conflicts, especially the long running and painful conflict in Afghanistan, which despite the serious positive transformations in the international arena and many developments in other regional and international issues, still remains unsolved.

The letters go on to say: As you are aware, the Republic of Afghanistan, by using all its means and by resorting to the necessary flexibility and by presenting specific realistic and practical proposals which conform with the accepted norms and traditions in the national and international contemporary life, has not spared any sincere efforts to end the war and the pain and suffering that have resulted from it. Within the framework of the peaceful efforts by the state of the Republic of Afghanistan, and taking into account the logical and realistic results from the development related to Afghanistan's society, [Afghanistan] will continue its efforts without any break in the following directions: encouraging and expanding the intra-Afghan dialogue and talks; using the selfless peaceful means and assistance of the world countries and the goodwill efforts of the UN Organization and its secretary general to achieve a comprehensive political solution of the situation in the republic of Afghanistan.

It is said in the letters sent by esteemed Najibollah addressed to the presidents of the USSR and the United States that it is worth mentioning that all the realistic sides of Afghanistan, and in general all the peace-loving people of Afghanistan are waiting with great hopes for an outcome and understanding from the summit to contribute to the solution of the conflict and ending of bloodshed in Afghanistan's society, before the holding of each summit of the presidents of the United States and the USSR, as the two great world powers and as powers involved to the issue of Afghanistan. [as heard]

This time, taking into account the recent positive development and with the opening of new windows toward Afghanistan, the hopes of our people for this forthcoming summit of the leaders of the United States and USSR to contribute toward the long running pains and suffering of our people are many times higher than before. It was stressed in the letters that parallel to other aspects of efforts by the republic of Afghanistan to

change from war to peace, the five-point statement by the UN secretary general contains realistic provisions, which have been brought about for the first time increasing [word indistinct] in Afghanistan's and world community to achieve a political solution. Understanding and fast clear reactions by the governments of the Soviet Union and America in support of the provisions of the statement, is a powerful guarantee for its implementation in practice.

His Excellency Mikhail Gorbachev and His Excellency George Bush have been asked to give such a reply to the great hopes and expectation of the long suffering people of Afghanistan, to contribute to the cause of ending war and conflict in Afghanistan's society, and to pave the ground in practice for the unity of all the sides involved, by means of intra-Afghan dialogue and talks, and formation of a government with a broad basis, that is based on free and democratic elections in our country.

Cabinet Briefed on Domestic, International Issues

LD2907211891 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network
in Pashto 1530 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Excerpts] The press department of the Prime Ministry reports that Prime Minister Fazl Haq Khaleqyar chaired a plenary session of the Council of Ministers this morning. The cabinet discussed important national and international matters as well as current developments concerning the increasing inclination of international thinking toward finding a political solution to the question of Afghanistan. [passage omitted]

Opening the session, esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar spoke about the military and political situation in the country and pointed out the increasing inclination of the international community and international establishments, intellectuals and various strata of the people of Afghanistan, which has been emerging inside and outside the country, concerning the plan of the UN secretary general and the policy of national reconciliation toward a political solution of the question of Afghanistan. He considered as useful and fruitful the efforts of the republican state and government of Afghanistan for the expansion of friendly relations with international establishments, most of all with Arab-Islamic and regional countries, resulting in an active and balanced diplomacy and the advancement of a peace-seeking policy by the state and government of the Republic of Afghanistan. Esteemed Khaleqyar expressed confidence that the wide support expressed by countries of the world and by various groups and strata of the Afghans for the plan of the UN secretary general will encourage the even resolute continuation of practical measures by the United Nations toward the realization of this statement.

In a part of his conversation, the prime minister informed members of the government about the mutually advantageous results of exchanges between high ranking officials of the republican state and government of Afghanistan and the high ranking delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic, headed by Vice-President Zuhayr

Mashariqah. He considered this visit by the high-ranking Syrian delegation as an important step toward the expansion of friendly relations between the two Islamic countries and toward strengthening political, economic, scientific, technical, and cultural relations. Esteemed Khaleqyar expressed hope that the fraternal country, Syria, which firmly supports the efforts and principle stand of the Republic of Afghanistan for a political solution of the question of the country and the maintenance of peace, will continue its friendly efforts for the expansion of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the Islamic countries, the restoration of the title of our country in the Islamic Conference Organization and our participation in the Islamic Development Bank.

Referring to the eminent meeting between the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States in Moscow and to the detailed and timely letters of Esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, addressed to His Excellency, US President George Bush, and to His Excellency, Soviet Union President Mikhail Gorbachev, the prime minister expressed hope that the leaders of the two great countries will respond to the hopes of the Afghan people for the cessation of war, thereby helping the cessation of war and hostility in the Afghan society and preparing the ground for peace through the coming together of all involved forces and dialogue and understanding among Afghans. After speaking about the economic situation of the country, the prime minister reassured [the cabinet] that the main highways in the country are open to traffic and the normal course of the primary goods' transport from various parts of the country is going ahead. He added: Despite the situation of various sectors and despite many factors [having an impact on] the fluctuation of goods and food prices, the supply of goods for our compatriots' needs is continuing on a large scale and the handing out of ration goods at fixed prices also continues. It is the decision of the government to pay the price of the ration goods, after a just estimation, in lieu of material, in the areas where the distribution of ration goods cannot be carried out, temporarily, because of the special situation there.

Explaining the government's measures on the supply of gasoline and fuel material to the compatriots, Esteemed Khaleqyar said: Engineer 'Abdol Samad Salim, deputy prime minister, at the head of a delegation consisting of the ministers of planning and mines and industry, will go to the Soviet Union to conduct talks on the acceleration of the delivery of gasoline and the supply of other goods needed in the country and on resolving the natural gas problem. It is hoped that our compatriots' problems in terms of gasoline and other goods will be alleviated by the signing of bilateral contracts and agreements. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Rival Students in Gun Battle at University

BK3007100791 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Dhaka, July 30 (AFP)—Rival student groups were locked in a gun battle at Dhaka University Tuesday as

two major schools were shut indefinitely because of escalating violence, police and students said.

Student sources said two groups positioned in nearby dormitories at Dhaka University traded gunfire, while a shootout took place near the arts faculty.

There were no reports of casualties.

Activists belonging to the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and two opposition parties—the Awami League and the leftist Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JCD)—were involved, witnesses said.

Automatic weapons were used freely in the battle for supremacy in the campus ahead of crucial student union elections, postponed twice so far because of violence that has left six dead and scores wounded in the past four months.

One witness said activists of the Awami League were being pushed out from the campus by BNP students, but police refused to intervene during the two-hour fight as they require permission from the vice chancellor before taking action on the campus.

"We have taken position and are awaiting orders to move in," one police officer at Nilkhet Police Station, close to the campus, said.

A university professor reached by telephone said political leaders should step down from their positions if they cannot control their student activists.

"Teachers and most students are hostages in the hands of several groups hungry for power," he said.

Gunfire could be heard overnight as students ran for safety inside the campus, which is guarded by a heavy police and para-military presence.

Meanwhile, Carmichael College in Rangpur district and the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) in Rajshahi district were shut Monday after fierce fighting, press reports said Tuesday.

The student wings of BNP and its parliament ally, the Jamaat-Eslami party, clashed over student union elections at Carmichael College, while the BIT was closed four days after activists of BNP and the opposition Awami League fought over a similar issue.

Following permission from the university head, police raided two dormitories at Dhaka University late Monday but failed to recover weapons or arrest any alleged "terrorists."

The university's academic environment council in a meeting Monday called on the police to help stop the entry of "armed outsiders" and said student groups would have to seek prior permission from the authorities before staging any demonstrations.

Students said the JCD had earlier on the day marched the campus demanding peace and a return to regular studies.

Many students have left the dormitories for safety, while some tests have been postponed indefinitely because of the tense situation, the students said.

Dhaka Vice Chancellor M. Moniruzzaman Mia attempted to hold talks with leaders of different political groups several weeks ago, but the meeting ended after students attacked a Jamaat-e Eslami leader.

In another meeting with political groups earlier this month, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia promised concerted government action to halt the violence and called on parents and teachers to help stop the troubles.

According to one report, 64 educational institutions have now been shut indefinitely during the four months since the BNP government came to power.

India

Dispute Over Cauvery Waters Continues

BK2807162491 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 91

[Text] The Tamil Nadu government has decided to move the Supreme Court to get a firm decision on the Cauvery water issue, giving a new turn to the protracted dispute with Karnataka. This was decided at an emergency meeting of the state cabinet in Madras today. The meeting, coming in the wake of the center's decision to refer the issue to the Supreme Court, adopted a resolution describing it as unnecessary and disappointing.

As already reported, the president, Mr. Venkataraman, wrote to the chief justice of India today, seeking the Supreme Court's opinion on the constitutional issues arising out of the dispute. The presidential reference under Article 143 of the Constitution follows the decision of the central government to do so.

The Tamil Nadu cabinet also decided to postpone next month's civic elections, as in its view an explosive situation has arisen in the state and the people of the state wanted to be united on the Cauvery waters issue. A press note issued after the emergency meeting of the state cabinet said the Tamil Nadu government will write to all state governments and leaders of political parties, appealing to them to defend the constitutional authority of the Supreme Court and the Cauvery Waters Tribunal.

Agency reports say the Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss. Jayalalith, in a statement, criticized union ministers Mr. Chidambaram [minister of state for commerce] and Mr. Arunachalam [minister of state for urban development] for their reported stand in support of the center's decision.

The Karnataka chief minister, Mr. S. Bangarappa, has said his government wants to know the terms and

conditions of the reference made to the Supreme Court. Talking to newsmen in Bangalore, he said the center's decision has the constitutional sanction.

'Pandemonium' Prevails Over Dispute

BK2907162191 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1530 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] As the Cauvery waters dispute [between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu] snowballed into a major controversy inside and outside parliament, the Karnataka government today moved the supreme court challenging the validity of the tribunal's interim order. Pandemonium prevailed in the Lok Sabha for sometime as members from the Tamil Nadu and Karnataka cutting across party lines clashed over the issue. The Tamil Nadu members took firm exception to the Center's decision to refer it to the supreme court, while members from Karnataka defended the move. The AIADMK [All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] members alleged that the center is conniving with Karnataka and delaying the issue and one Congress-I member alleged that the Karnataka chief minister had not consulted the party high command before issuing the controversial ordinance. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] members urged the prime minister to call a meeting of the two chief ministers to hammer out a solution, while the Janata Dal members suggested the convening of the inter-state council.

The reported remarks of the labor minister, Mr. Ramamurthy, against the Center's decision came in for criticism from the opposition members who alleged that the concept of collective responsibility of the council of members has been given a go-by. In the Rajya Sabha, the Congress-I and AIADMK members criticized the central move. The AIADMK members, who have been demanding a statement from the prime minister, staged a walkout when the deputy chairman informed the house that the water resources minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, will make a statement.

In his statement, Mr. Shukla, said full legal and constitutional aspects of the Cauvery dispute has been referred to the supreme court for its opinion. These relate to the status and validity of the Karnataka ordinance and the interim orders of the tribunal. Later, giving clarifications in the Rajya Sabha, Mr. Shukla said the government is hopeful of a negotiated political settlement of the issue.

The Karnataka government today filed a special leave petition in the supreme court challenging the validity of the tribunal's interim order. The petition also challenges the authority of the tribunal to pass the order. Meanwhile, the registrar of the apex court issued notice to the attorney general, Mr. Ramaswamy, asking him to appear on Wednesday [31 July] to inform the court of the parties to be heard on the presidential reference. The presidential reference has sought the court's opinion on the constitutionality of the tribunal's order and the ordinance promulgated by the Karnataka government to nullify it.

In Madras, the chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, described the Center's move to refer to the supreme court as an exercise to confuse the real issues. Miss Jayalalitha's stand on the issue won the support of the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] party which demanded immediate implementation of the interim order.

The CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] politburo in a statement asked the center to hold talks with both the state governments for an amicable solution, while the Congress-I high command appealed to the leaders of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka to settle the issue through negotiations.

Minister of State Resigns

BK3007011091 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0035 GMT 30 91

[Text] The union minister of state for labor, Mr. K. Ramamurthy, is reported to have resigned from the Council of Ministers. According to agency reports, Mr. Ramamurthy, who arrived from Madras last evening, met the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and handed over his resignation over the Cauvery water dispute. He also met the president, Mr. Venkataraman, last night. Mr. Ramamurthy was not available for his comments on the issue. However, according to the PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA], Mr. Ramamurthy is understood to have told the prime minister that he would not like to continue in the ministry as he was critical of the government's decision to ask the opinion of the Supreme Court. The Tamil Nadu chief minister, Miss Jayalalitha, has welcomed Mr. Ramamurthy's action.

More on Resignation

BK3007090391 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 0830 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha has been informed that the minister of state for labor, Mr. K. Ramamurthy, has resigned and his resignation has been forwarded by the prime minister to the president for acceptance. As soon as the question hour was over, the leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, told this to the several agitated opposition members who were demanding a clarification on the reports in the press today about Mr. Ramamurthy's resignation. The opposition pressed for a statement from Mr. Ramamurthy who was present in the house. The speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, observed that if the minister wanted to make a state, he had to submit it to the chair in writing before doing so. Mr. Ramamurthy immediately walked up to the podium and handed over a statement to the speaker.

Mr. K. Ramamurthy, who has resigned as labor minister, told the Lok Sabha that he has taken the decision in protest against the reference of the Cauvery water issue to the Supreme Court. Making a statement with the permission of the chair, he alleged that justice has been

denied to Tamil Nadu and he stands by whatever he said to the press on the issue. Mr. Ramamurthy, however, made it clear that he will continue to serve the Congress-I as a loyal worker. Earlier, as soon as the question hour was over, several opposition members demanded a clarification on press reports about Mr. Ramamurthy's resignation. The leader of the house, Mr. Arjun Singh, informed the house that the resignation has been forwarded by the prime minister to the president for acceptance.

Article Favors Strong Ties With USSR

BK2807045491 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
in English 19 Jul 91 p 11

[Article by Bhabani Sen Gupta: "Indo-Soviet Ties—Renewing the Treaty"]

[Text] The Indo-Soviet treaty of peace and friendship becomes 20 years old on August 8. It stands automatically extended by one year since neither party has given notice that it wants the treaty to lapse. During Mr. V.P. Singh's five-day visit to the USSR in July last year, it was agreed between him and President Mikhail Gorbachev that the treaty would be formally renewed for another 15 years, that its 29th anniversary would be appropriately celebrated in both countries. A report on the front page of PRAVDA announced that for the celebrations in India, Gorbachev would pay his third visit to Delhi since he took over leadership of Soviet affairs in 1985. This report was, however, not officially confirmed.

It now appears that instead of Gorbachev, his Foreign Minister, Aleksandr Bessmertnykh will be coming to Delhi before the end of the year, while a visit by Gorbachev is on the cards for 1992. The Indian Foreign Office is said to be keen that Foreign Minister Madhavsinh Solanki visits Moscow in the next few months to initiate a comprehensive review of Indo-Soviet relations for the rest of the decade. The IMF loan, the package of economic reforms that will be unfolding through the coming weeks, and the opposition charge that the government is "surrendering" to all kinds of IMF-US pressures make a dramatic renewal of India-USSR friendship a political necessity for the minority government of Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao. An endorsement by the USSR of Mr Rao's own version of economic perestroika will help maintain the government's "socialist" image.

For a whole year, nothing noteworthy has happened to Indo-Soviet relations. Neither Mr. Chandra Shekhar nor his short-life Foreign Minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, went to Moscow, nor did any heavyweight Soviet leader come to India. This does not mean that the 35-year-old friendship, or alliance, went to sleep. The two countries continue to sustain a large and diversified economic and military-supply relationship. During the Persian Gulf war and its immediate aftermath, they kept in touch with one another and worked in tandem as far as possible. When Mr Bessmertnykh comes to Delhi, the two sides

will have to pick up the threads of V.P. Singh's Moscow visit and the handsome results it produced.

That visit was somewhat unusual. Gorbachev was deeply preoccupied with such major issues and problems as German unity and mounting political convulsions and economic slide-down on the home front. There was an impression around that the National Front Government was not much to Moscow's taste walking as it was on crutches provided by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] and the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], two parties that the Soviets regarded as more or less hostile. But Gorbachev readily took time off his more pressing schedule and gave a warm welcome to the visiting Prime Minister from India. V.P. Singh had taken with him Foreign Minister Inder K. Gujral, Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate and Commerce Minister Arun Nehru. The two Heads of Government had two extensive sessions, while the Foreign Ministers plunged into a thorough assessment of the global situation and critical issues in South Asia and the Persian Gulf. Mr. Dandavate and Mr. Nehru took up financial and trade issues with their Soviet counterparts.

The visit did not produce a joint communique. But it brought forth the Moscow Declaration on the line of the Delhi Declaration of 1986.

The draft of the Moscow Declaration was prepared in the Indian Foreign Office. It was an eloquent testament of the world view of the National Front Government. Of any Indian Government for, as V.P. Singh told Gorbachev, friendship with the Soviet Union was "now beyond partisan considerations (in India) and no change of Government of policy can make a dent in it."

The Moscow Declaration did not mention the Indo-Soviet treaty. But it figured in the bilateral talks of the Foreign Ministers which were devoted mostly to Indo-Pakistan relations. Thus, while the Moscow Declaration, with characteristic declaration speak, rose to dizzy rhetorical heights with commitments to pristine principles that India has seldom followed in its relations with neighbours, the meetings at the level of Foreign Ministers, whether attended, on the Soviet side, by Vorontsov or Shevardnadze, focused on the grim India-Pakistan confrontation over Kashmir with lurking dangers of war along the entire international front.

According to reports in the Indian and Soviet Press, it was Gorbachev who reminded the Prime Minister of India that the Indo-Soviet treaty would come up for renewal on August 9, 1991. He was responding to V.P. Singh's invitation for an India visit. Mr. Gorbachev said that the 20th anniversary of the treaty needed to be celebrated with stress on cooperation on science and technology, trade, economic matters and culture. Was he downgrading the security aspects of the treaty, signalling a message to the distinguished visitor from India that if India had a military confrontation with China or Pakistan, it could no longer count on Soviet commitment of unquestioned support?

If there were any such doubts gnawing at the minds of the members of the Indian delegation these were dispelled in the several rounds of down-to-earth discussions at the level of Foreign Ministers. The Soviets stood as firmly as ever behind India on the Kashmir issue. Kashmir, for them, was an integral part of India. It must not be internationalised. Shevardnadze himself told reporters that he had agreed to convey India's concerns about internationalising the Kashmir issue to the US Secretary of State, James Baker. Wiping out all doubts and misgivings with a powerful swipe of his right hand, the Soviet Foreign Minister declared that "there was complete understanding" between the two sides on the Kashmir and related issues, and that "there was no misunderstanding or contradictions in his government's approach to these issues." The Indian side was left with no doubt whatsoever that if it came to a confrontation or conflict with Pakistan over Kashmir, the Soviet Union would stand firmly by India.

In the year that has passed since July 1990, both India and the USSR have been convulsed with political shocks. Gorbachev has been busy grappling with the Union Treaty designed to keep the USSR as a single State with the willing consent of the 15 constituent republics.

India too has had a very difficult year, its problems somewhat resembling those of the USSR. Two elections have produced two minority governments. Armed insurgencies continue unabated in Punjab and Kashmir and has extended to Assam. Rajiv Gandhi's assassination at the hands of a suspected LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] agent traumatised the nation. As a result of gross mismanagement of the fiscal resources of the country by successive governments, India is now faced with the worst economic crisis since Independence, according to its new Finance Minister.

In the new crisis-laden dispensation, relations with the United States have exacted the topmost priority because a certain high degree of American goodwill is a must for India if it were to get a hefty \$5-7 billion IMF loan. Hardly anything is said or written in India these days about relations with the USSR. Some motivated people have taken the opportunity of the inclement weather to suggest that Indo-Soviet trade has cost India too much in terms of foreign exchange and is partly responsible for our present and perceptible decline. There is an orchestrated effort on the part of politically motivated groups to persuade Indians that their future lies in friendly relations with the United States alone, and they better forget the Soviet Union, yesteryear's relative, and switch their minds to Japan and Germany, even to the little tigers of East and South-East Asia.

I am sure the Congress Government will not be misled by these advocates of the captains of the international market economy. The Soviet Union is down, yes, but it is not out, whatever the Western Press may report and predict. The USSR is not Yugoslavia. Discriminating and objective Western observers of the changing Soviet

scenario are impressed with Gorbachev's political skills and his sheer doggedness of purpose. The USSR continues to be one of the most important partners of India's economy. The great bulk of India's consumer goods are exported to the USSR; we just cannot sell them to the world market. Millions of Indian families depend on trade with the USSR for their livelihood. India still buys 70 per cent of its military hardware from Moscow and a lot of petroleum, newsprint, fertilisers and other goods without spending hard currency.

Gorbachev told V.P. Singh that the Soviets did not compare their ties with India with those with any other country, the Indo-Soviet relationship was "unique". The relationship was still relevant to both countries and to a world searching for a new order of peace, dialogue and cooperation, he said.

India must reciprocate the sentiment. It is important for India to have friendly relations with the United States, China, Japan and Germany, and, of course, with its neighbours in South Asia. But in a world where hardly anybody is anybody's steady friend or enemy any more, it is good for India to know that in Moscow it has an unwavering friend. The friendship may not mean in the nineties exactly what it meant in the seventies, but it still means a lot in terms of security cooperation, political understanding, trade and economic relations, cooperation in science and technology.

Political and economic change in the USSR will be creating new opportunities for Indian traders and manufacturers. Already the Central Asian Republics have vastly expanded their cooperation with India, and the Russian Federation is also a candidate for cooperation. The economic reforms will inevitably create initial problems for Indian traders and businessmen, but as the new regime settles down, that is by 1993-94, the Soviet Union will once again shoot up on the horizon as a coveted partner in political as well as economic enterprise. It will take India decades to develop with the United States even half of the friendship and understanding that has grown between Delhi and Moscow in the span of 30 years. The United States will at best be a friend, never an ally.

General Beg's Remarks Criticized in Parliament

BK2907131191 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, the recent speeches by the retiring Pakistan Army chief, General Beg, came under severe criticism as being inflammatory and heightening tension between India and Pakistan. Raising the issue during the zero hour, Mr. Surya Narain Yadav, Janata Dal, said a war hysteria is being created in Pakistan.

Inquiry on Gandhi Suspect's Suicide Demanded

BK2907151291 Delhi All India Radio Network
in English 1430 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] In the Lok Sabha, a strong demand was made for a judicial probe into the death of Shanmugam, an accused in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case. Initiating a special discussion on the discussion, Mr. Era Anbarasu, Congress-I, said the official explanation that the accused committed suicide by hanging is not convincing as he himself had earlier surrendered to the police. He also alleged that there is no coordination between the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] and the local police.

The Congress-I has called for expediting the investigation into Rajiv Gandhi's assassination. Expressing serious concern at the home minister's observation that the assassination was part of a larger conspiracy, the party has also demanded a full inquiry to expose the plot. Party spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said the legal and administrative formalities in this connection should be sorted out at the earliest.

Meanwhile, out of the two militants who killed themselves by triggering an explosion at the time of a police raid in Coimbatore yesterday, one has been identified as Dixon. He was wanted in connection with Rajiv Gandhi's assassination.

Iran

Tehran Bazaar Fire Causes 'Immense' Losses

LD2907171591 Tehran IRIB Television First
Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] In one of the greatest fires in recent years in the Tehran Bazaar, a large number of shops were burned and immense losses were inflicted. The fire began at noon at Sara-ye Amir which is one of the most important centers of the Tehran Bazaar. The fire then spread swiftly. It took the efforts of firemen from 11 fire stations in Tehran to bring the fire under control.

Mr. Golrokhi, managing director of Tehran Fire Brigade, told our correspondent that the fire destroyed a large number of carpets and vast quantities of textiles. He said: According to investigations carried out it seems that the fire was started deliberately.

Velayati in Pakistan for Afghan Rebel Conference

NC3007075591 Tehran Voice of the Islamic
Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] The first round of the quadripartite session between Iran, Pakistan, and the Tehran- and Peshawar-based mujahidin leaders opened in Islamabad last night with Mr. Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, and Mr. Akram Zaki, Pakistan's secretary of state for foreign affairs, in attendance. Other participants included Mr.

Mortazavi, spokesman for the Islamic Unity Party, and several high-ranking members of the party; and Sebghatollah Mojaddadi and Borhaneddin Rabbani, and several other leaders of the Afghan mujahidin based in Pakistan.

[Begin correspondent telephone relay from Pakistan] During the two-hour session, Akram Zaki thanked Iran for its proposal to hold the quadripartite session and expressed his hope that the session will succeed and a favorable solution to the Afghanistan problem will emerge.

Dr. Velayati spoke and thanked the Pakistani Government for its hospitality and efforts to hold the meeting, adding: We believe that this session will be recorded as a turning point in the history of the Afghan people's Islamic jihad and of cooperation between Iran, Pakistan, and Afghanistan.

Velayati continued: I am confident that the brave Afghan people can determine their fate very intelligently. Dr. Velayati discussed recent political and military developments in Afghanistan and noted the intense political efforts on the international level to solve the problem. The Islamic Republic of Iran, Velayati said, has always stressed that the Afghan problem should be solved by the Afghan people, away from any bad or destructive foreign intervention.

In conclusion, Mr. Velayati stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue to support the Muslim Afghan people until the Afghan problem is solved. We believe that Afghanistan will achieve peace and stability when an independent, nonaligned, and Islamic government representing all the Muslims of Afghanistan governs the country, Velayati said. [end relay]

Our correspondent adds that in continuing last night's session, Rabbani, leader of the Jami'at-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan, discussed the problems facing the mujahidin: We currently need national unity and the Islamic Republic of Iran has exerted positive and constructive efforts toward this goal. Rabbani called on Iran and Pakistan to continue their assistance to the Muslim Afghan nation until it can determine its own fate.

Mr. Gilani, another Afghan mojahedin leader, thanked Iran and Pakistan for their efforts in the cause and said: The successes of the Muslim Afghan nation during the years of occupation has brought a good opportunity for Afghanistan to be liberated.

Daily on Correct Method of Criticism

NC2907184591 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 16 Jul 91 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "Criticism Is a Must, But in What Form?"]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty and the merciful.

These days economic problems are being widely discussed in society and public opinion is focused on them. We undoubtedly should welcome the fact that economic problems are being discussed among the various strata in society and the fact that efforts are being made to find suitable solutions to them.

These discussions may adopt a more serious form of criticism and even of opposition. But if principles are observed, the fact that discussions will reach such a stage not only will not create problems, but can also offer solutions. But the issue is: What is the acceptable framework which will be able to determine the boundaries of criticism?

In our revolutionary society, both the critics of economic problems and those whose decisions, actions, and stances may spark criticism generally are among the forces that believe in Islam and support the system. Naturally, understanding this fact can move many of the pessimistic prejudgements and approaches and direct criticisms in the right direction.

The acceptable framework for criticism, which at the same time will determine the boundaries of criticism, can be based on the following:

1. The preservation of the revolution's aspirations and principles and the preservation of the power of the Islamic Republic of Iran, while avoiding any action that can weaken the system or the revolution.
2. Criticism should be based on the axis of "Islamic ethics." Approaches should not denigrate the forces of the revolution, and venomous and sarcastic words and deeds should be avoided.
3. Criticism should be voiced affectionately and with improvement in mind so that it can positively affect and be accepted by those criticized.
4. What is said should be based on correct, precise, and reliable information. Lies and incorrect analyses should be avoided and specialized discussions should be left to the experts.
5. In economic discussions, reasonings should not be confused, and the propounding of unrelated political problems which may slur the problem should be seriously avoided.

These are the points that should be considered. Our objective is not to advise or encourage some people. Our objective is to help create the correct conditions for constructive criticism aimed at reforms so that the practical strength of the revolutionary forces and of the system will not be wasted in a confrontation of forces and efforts to eliminate each another. If we all move within this framework, then certainly the objectives of those with ulterior motives will be quickly identified and these people will "reveal" themselves.

We should all understand and accept the fact that it is by observing principles that criticism will adopt a serious character and will not always remain in its initial stages, where each side accuses the other of not observing principles and of trampling on moral criteria, thus

making everything halt in the initial stage. In other words, it is by observing principles that the critic will not merely "mark time" and repeat everything, and the target of criticism will hear proper criticism and will not merely resort to self-defense and thus have less time to think of how to correct possible mistakes.

It is only fair that we accept the fact that criticism in our society has not yet adopted an acceptable framework and is not moving toward "maturity." We are still in the initial stages of the freedom experience. Society and its forces still have not achieved clear and profound experience in correctly using this freedom. Some of the critics seize every opportunity to voice direct opposition, so much so that sometimes the essence of the matter that is coming under criticism becomes insignificant and everything becomes confrontational between two individuals or between two factions.

All these may be and are coupled with goodwill. But sometimes acts are such that the "predominant feeling" is that the objective behind the criticism is to efface the other side and that the effort is to throw one side or the other out of the picture.

In this context, the newspapers are considered to be one of the main tribunes which should show sensitivity toward the issue of preserving principles instead of becoming a soapbox for expressing their own views.

Our country is in the stage of reconstruction. The volume of economic transactions and agreements with the outside world have inevitably increased. Our economic system is doing business with new partners and even our old partners in the outside world have new approaches to our system. Some may be thinking of reviving past conditions and may want to reestablish unequal economic relations with us and to possibly gain the upper hand.

The existence of this uneasiness and anxiety felt by some observers concerning the possible objectives that some countries have as far as economic relations with us are concerned should not be ignored. These feelings deserve respect, and if not taken seriously, may have opposite results.

The economic planners of the country should, in each phase, clarify problems, explain complications, announce programs and objectives, and discuss their problems with the people. All these are extremely valuable for the society and the country and will make the people regard problems more correctly and to view the future and possible problems more clearly.

The government, and especially the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance and Industry, should better understand the fact that speaking about problems and giving the people details will ensure the success of their plans and programs. At the same time, instilling doubts and insisting on not giving reliable information will result in incorrect assumptions and will lead to the

acceptance of rumors and implications by non-expert and sometimes spiteful people.

We are in the initial stages of serious decisionmaking about the infrastructure of our country's economy and industry. The people have the right to be very sensitive as far as understanding realities is concerned and to regard with anxiety basic decisions which concern the country's industrial-economic infrastructure. This anxiety does not stem from their lack of confidence in the officials, but from the sensitivity of the issue and the vastness of the job that is being performed. This sensitivity by the people should be respected and welcomed. At the same time, any inopportune anxiety should be removed by expressing more realities and giving more precise details.

Fortunately, the officials and the decisionmaking centers have faith in the path they have chosen. Discussing problems and explaining details primarily can turn all those who felt anxiety today into supporters of these economic programs tomorrow. These people will regard the future with more confidence and will know that no decision and no step has been taken or will be taken outside the framework of the interests of the system and of the country and the people.

If the officials refrain from explaining realities and correctly defending the government's clear policies, this task will be undertaken by those who lack competence and credibility and who rose to confront the government that was in power during the era of our late Imam—something which prompted the Imam's warning to them. Even though with their recent articles they have proven that they are still bent on wounding the former government and on justifying their past mistakes, nevertheless it is not advisable for the officials of the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance and Industry to doubt the need to explain their correct deeds, and—by maintaining further silence—to instill the negative belief that they may not have anything to say. By giving logical explanations, the officials of these ministries will prove that this is not the case.

Clergyman on Dangers to Islamic Revolution

West's 'Cultural Offensive'

NC2707111391 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
15 Jul 91 p 3

[First of three installments of commentary by Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi: "Three Dangers Lie in Wait for the Islamic Revolution"]

[Text] Some Islamic scholars have pointed to the need to compile information on the Koran's teachings.

Such a collection would be extremely useful, because certain teachings have demonstrated their superiority throughout history and familiarity with them will enable us to determine which writings provide the best interpretation of the Koran.

In any event, one of these well-known teachings tells us: Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change it themselves (Ra'd Sura, Verse 11). [Koranic verse] This applies equally to blessings and calamities.

This Koranic tradition says: Fear a domestic enemy more than you fear a foreign enemy. Fear yourself. Fear your thoughts and acts.

If you are strong and succeed in doing this, then your divine blessings will not diminish and the foreign enemy will be unable to accomplish anything.

Let us now examine the essence of an important issue before us today in light of this principle.

The truth is that despite all obstacles, the Islamic Revolution is growing, as recent developments in North Africa, especially Algeria, in "the occupied Palestinian territories," and in "Kashmir" attest.

The truth is that the interests of the world-devourers are threatened, at least throughout a large part of the world. They are paying close attention to this and have drawn up many plans to break the strength of what they see as Islamic fundamentalism, or what we see as the auspicious Islamic Revolution.

This situation has, however, meant that supporters of the revolution are focusing all their attention on events outside the country, when, as the Koranic teaching mentioned above notes, the source of danger should first be sought within the country.

Experience has shown that foreign enemies always hope for internal disorder, opposition, and bottlenecks.

We believe there are currently three important issues which, if not dealt with promptly, could develop into major points of weakness that could break us. Moreover, the enemy has great hopes that this is exactly what will happen. These issues are:

1. The pitiless offensive by western culture (or cultural bombardment);
2. Economic pressures (or economic traps);
3. Destructive criticism and the wasting of positive forces.

Let us deal first with the West's cultural offensive.

We know that apart from coups, where all reliance is placed in brute force, all revolutions contain a cultural element. In other words, after a society has learned about and accepted a certain way of thinking, it launches a movement to dismantle the old system and replace it with something new.

A revolution lasts as long as this new way of thinking, this culture, does. In other words, "it lasts as long as its reason for being remains valid."

It is exactly because of this that those who feel their interests are at risk include a "cultural offensive" against the values of a revolution in their confrontation of that revolution.

Regrettably, it is quite clear that the Islamic Revolution is today the target of a Western cultural offensive; the enemy is trying, with all its might, to crush the culture of the revolution in any way that it can.

Let us start with a look at the books that are being published by certain suspicious publishing houses.

A well-known publishing institution recently completed a study of these books and published its finding in a confidential pamphlet—the contents of which cannot be revealed for this reason—which was then placed at the disposal of experts. (I thank those who were involved in publishing this pamphlet.)

The study found that these books concentrate on sexy [preceding word in English] matters in an ugly, despicable, and provocative manner.

These books also deal with things such as drinking and lewd dancing between men and women and slyly insult clergymen.

It should be noted that most of these books are translations of foreign novels.

Most of them were published by certain suspicious publishing houses and many of them are being sold around the university, which means they are primarily directed at students!

It is also odd that these books are mostly of recent vintage. When we examine all aspects of the issue, it becomes clear that all this is not mere chance but indications of a plot.

I do not accuse anyone; I have no particular organization in mind. I only see the outcome: These books are part of the West's cultural offensive which has sought to cast serious doubts on the values of the revolution.

The situation is no better when it comes to certain films. (I have already commented on this and will not repeat myself here!) Meanwhile an organized network is involved in distributing lewd and disgusting pictures among high school and university students, pictures that can mislead any boy or girl should they fall into their hands.

The surprising insistence of some in rejecting Islamic dress, the deliberate displays of dancing in the streets at some weddings, the networks that distribute drugs among our youth and bring them into the country in convoys—which at times include armored vehicles!—that traverse the difficult terrain of the mountains and deserts, and other similar things are all part of this "pitiless offensive." This offensive is aimed at the young generation, at keeping it away from things such as virtue, piety, courage, faith, and alertness and at drowning it in

corruption; it seeks to kill the spirit of Islam and of the revolution in them, weaken their will, and sap their spiritual strength. Even a heroic and devoted basiji can become a weakling who falls into the traps Western culture brings.

History has repeatedly shown that the basest means have been used to bring down a revolution or a civilization. One example of this is the painful story of the Muslims of Andalusia, and we should all reread this tale today and weep over every sentence of it!

If we wish to confront this widespread offensive, the first thing we must do is acknowledge that a plot does indeed exist and that the enemy is pitilessly bombarding our cultural values.

We must then rise up and decide on how to neutralize it, mobilizing all our forces for this purpose. In this way, we may be able to come off the defensive and launch a strong offensive against their rotten and corrupt culture.

The practical plans of scholars and intellectuals who support this idea should be collected so that a comprehensive plan can be compiled.

God Almighty will definitely assist us in this effort. Meanwhile, the pious and courageous youth who demonstrated their peerless devotion during the imposed war are the best supporters of this program.

West's 'Economic Pressures'

NC2707142591 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
16 Jul 91 p 3

[Second of three installments of commentary by Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi: "The Second Danger—Economic Pressure"]

[Text] Walls used to be built around cities to safeguard them from enemy attacks. Arabs called these walls "city walls" while in Persian the words used were "tower and rampart."

When an enemy approached the city, it would first surveil the area around the "city wall" looking for a crack to identify which part of the wall was vulnerable. Then it would initiate an attack from that point. These vulnerable points were called "weak spots" in Arabic.

These walls have been dismantled in modern times for various reasons. Invisible walls have been drawn around cities in these times, and countries and enemies today also try to find the cracks in these walls to initiate their destructive and avenging attacks!

Naturally, the defenders of a country or of a society should pay careful attention to these cracks and guard them well.

In our past discussion, we said that we believe there are currently three important points on the wall of the revolution and that if we ignore these points they may turn into three cracks in the not too distant future. This

is why the enemy has given high priority to the following issues: cultural offensive, economic pressures, and negative opposition.

We have already discussed the "cultural offensive." Now we will discuss "economic pressures."

To understand just how complicated and awe-inspiring economic issues are currently, all we need to do is consider the fact that the government, the nation, all the publications, the mass media, writers, and orators are all speaking about the "need to safeguard the poor and vulnerable classes." Every day, however, the situation of this class worsens! Is it possible that those who speak about this are, God forbid, not sincere? No. This can definitely not be the case.

Who does not want to see the class that comprises the most faithful, the most valuable, and the most devoted forces of the revolution freed from this severe economic bottleneck?

Everybody wants that. Why is the outcome exactly the opposite? Why is inflation suffocating these dear ones the most? Why?

The reason is that economic issues are extremely complicated and cannot be solved through slogans, decisions, expressions of sympathy, or mere efforts. Every intellectual should be called on to help solve the problem because economic problems—particularly after a long war—are more complicated than we think and demand more collective efforts.

These are the obvious points. Several points, however, continue to be an enigma for us. People who are not experts in economic affairs see these points as well. Therefore, it would be positive if officials and experts paid special attention to the following points:

1. It is interesting to see how the rich class clearly states: "We are the links in the middle of a chain! We immediately transfer any pressure inflicted on us from above to the following links! For example, if the government imposes a heavy tax on us, we will increase the prices of our products and services and make the consumer pay! Our mind is at ease."

The municipalities levy taxes on the rich, the merchants, and others thinking that they are pressuring the well-off and the rich.

2. Any price increase in any corner of the country and on any product immediately has inflationary impacts everywhere else, just like a contagious disease! It is interesting how even an increase in fines for traffic violations have indubitable inflationary repercussions.

It is true that everyone was happy to hear about the increase in fines for traffic violation and thought that it would help discourage people from driving in such a way as to threaten other people's lives and property. What we saw, however, was how the issue became an economic model because immediately after this fine increase many

of the public transportation vehicles increased their fares. When asked why, the answer was: The fines have increased ten-fold!

It is interesting to note that some extra trucks were brought to Qom to carry extra rubble from some of our own institutions and that these trucks increased their rates. (This was two days before the fine increase took effect!) When asked why they increased "the rates for carrying rubble," they said: Do you not know that the fines have increased ten-fold? When they were told that they had to break the law to be fined, they answered: Yes! Eventually we will be fined and we want the people to pay for it!

It appeared that even before the fines were increased they were taking the money from the people. This shows how sensitive we should be on increasing prices for anything. The traffic department should not make such decisions on its own even though we respect the reasoning it used in making the decision. But you see what the outcome was!

3. Government and quasi-government institutions appear to be involved in a race to see who can increase the prices of their goods more. Some are doubling prices while others are increasing them many-fold. Thus, the prices of electricity, water, cement, fares, and other services that are needed by the poor class have suddenly sky-rocketed!

The officials in charge of these institutions are basing their decisions on sound reasoning. No one is there to tell them that their decisions have fine reasoning but they need to tell us what a "worker" and an "employee" who has a stable income should do? Have you increased the wages of your workers and employees to keep up with the increases? These people believe that inflation stems from your decision, and they see that their wages are not buying what they used to. This applies even more to people in the low-income group.

The problem is that each production unit is trying to save its own skin by transferring economic pressures to other groups. The question remains: Who will save the skin of the deprived and the poor who are suffering the pressures of inflation? They say that government institutions should be self-sufficient. This is correct. But the poor are being wasted in the process.

4. When government and quasi-government institutions are leading the way in this dangerous race, how can others be made to stop, especially when some entrepreneurs have an odd approach to these issues? These entrepreneurs will never be satisfied with a price increase of their goods and services that maintains pace with inflation because they prefer to increase prices many-fold and thus create additional inflation with the strange cruelty that they impose on the poor and deprived classes (there are many examples of this.)

5. Population growth, which is one of the major elements that leads to economic inflation and which may possibly

become a "tragedy" in the future, is almost being ignored. No serious or logical steps that both conform with Islamic culture and help solve the problem have been thought of yet, and the matter has not gone beyond speeches, seminars, and marginal advice on the "Hello, Good Morning" radio program!

But it is obvious that when 2 million people are added to the consumer population each year, all the economic programs may be overshadowed and upset. This topic deserves more extensive discussion than this brief reference here.

The truth is that when speaking about inflation and economic pressures we see ourselves "between perils" as we, the religious scholars, would say. On one hand, we see the praiseworthy efforts made by officials to solve these problems, and we fear that the enemy may exploit our discussions and try to spread disappointment and pessimism among the poor, who are the backbone of our revolution.

On the other hand, ignoring these problems is dangerous because eventually we will not be able to ignore them. We have no other alternative but to get to work and ask the intellectuals to help us to overcome this immense problem.

At any rate, my duty was to reflect the complaints that I hear almost every day from the devoted class which forms the main arm of the revolution and to issue a warning. Nevertheless, I am hopeful for the future.

Destructive Criticism

NC2907105591 Tehran ETTALA'AT in Persian
17 Jul 91 p 3

[Final of three installments of commentary by Ayatollah Makarem-Shirazi: "The Third Danger—Destructive Criticism"]

[Text] Many scholars believe that "criticism" is necessary if a society is to achieve progress and development. Therefore, they regard the existence of many parties as not just useful but essential, on the basis that development comes through criticism. They point to Shirazi's well-known words that our divine blessings would not have been so generous and abundant had there been no opposition. Reference is even made to some Koranic verses on this. This is not the place for a thorough discussion of this matter.

It should be no secret to you, however, that we do not accept that idea that criticism is necessary for development nor do we regard the justifications put forward by supporters of this view as adequate. We believe that if we regard the material world from the point of view of "monotheism," the idea of criticism will quickly lose its luster and everyone will act together as a "comprehensive collective" and be guided by the unending source of the world.

For the sake of argument, however, let us accept the notion that a society needs criticism if it is to develop.

What we must remember is that opposition can take two forms, "constructive" and "destructive," and it is easy to distinguish between them.

"Constructive criticism" is like a race, with everyone trying to run as well and as fast as he can and set new records.

"Destructive criticism" is like a destructive war, in which a society uses all its resources to crush another side and thereby also harms itself.

"Constructive criticism" always means a step forward, but "destructive criticism" always means a step backward.

It is no secret to anyone today that certain trends have surfaced in our society. We do not want to exaggerate them, but we cannot deny their existence.

What we should do is try to ascertain whether these trends are constructive or destructive. If they are the former, then we thank God for them and should strengthen them. If they are the latter, however, then we must consider how we can make them constructive; it is quite possible to do this, or the reverse.

At this point, we should try to clarify what makes criticism constructive or destructive:

1. In "constructive criticism," all strata, parties, and trends all keep the main objectives of the society and the revolution in mind, and each group does its best to be guided by these objectives.

"Destructive criticism" is directed toward personal and group interests, however, with each group looking for ways to further them.

2. "Constructive criticism" uses the weapon of reason and presents accurate information. "Destructive criticism" seeks to conceal by trying to spread false information, attach labels, and make accusations!

3. "Constructive criticism" uses a friendly, affectionate, and respectful tone. The tone of "destructive criticism" is harsh, unkind, and at times even insulting.

4. "Constructive criticism" seeks to instill hope so that people's minds can be at ease and society can be guided away from whatever crises embroil it and move toward its objectives.

"Destructive criticism" seeks to spread "pessimism" and "suspicion" and to "sow the seeds of disappointment" in society, so that the people will lose faith in their movement as well as their confidence and their strength, and will be left isolated and alone.

5. "Constructive criticism" notes strengths as well as weaknesses. "Destructive criticism" seeks not just to show weaknesses but also to magnify them. It also seeks to create the impression that the other side is wholly bad and is completely dependent on the enemy!

6. "Constructive criticism" not only notes problems, but also tries to find solutions. "Destructive criticism" is

only interested in destroying; it offers no solutions. In other words, it seeks to tear down, not build up.

7. In "constructive criticism," opponents will sit down together and exchange views without making any fuss, perhaps even far from the eyes of the press, so that they can gradually narrow the gaps between their views.

In "destructive criticism," there are insurmountable barriers between groups. In the words of the Koranic saying: Between them is a barrier which they do not transgress.

Using these seven distinguishing features of constructive and destructive criticism, you should be able to judge if the lines and stances seen and heard in various parts of the country come under the first or second categories.

If they fall under the first category, then we should thank God for this and want everyone to follow one of these lines, because all problems could then be easily solved.

If they fall under the second category, however, then we must seek God's help and warn that the enemy is lying in ambush and danger is nigh!

The enemy's plots today are so complex and well organized that only unity and constructive criticism—which is another form of unity—can overcome them.

We need only remember one thing today: After the Persian Gulf war, the United States is constantly speaking about the "new world order" and is using beautiful words that have extremely dangerous connotations!

If we analyze these three words—new, world, and order—separately, we can understand the real objective.

In short, the United States wants to say: I won a great triumph in the Persian Gulf war. I crushed Iraq, and I showed the world my superiority in war technology.

Moreover, now that East Europe has totally disintegrated, I am the only superpower in the world.

Therefore, a new order should be established in the world which will take all our political and economic interests into consideration, and no program should be implemented without our consent. The existing conditions in the world too are as we wish!

We must disarm the Middle East and wherever else we choose, and we should settle the Palestinian problem to suit Zionist interests. Even Europe cannot act unilaterally. This is what the United States really means by its new world order.

Under such conditions, does not reason demand that we subsume minor differences into a comprehensive whole and try to achieve the solidarity necessary to dash the enemy's hopes and foil this dangerous plan?

Today even the Europeans are feeling the danger entailed by the existing situation and are putting their house in order so that they can stop this unmatched giant

in his tracks, or at least harness it enough so that it moves in line with their own interests.

Not just our country, but the whole Third World must understand this danger well, because it is a question of freedom or enslavement by the giant of industry and wealth.

Of course, with God's help, the situation will not remain like this; new balances will emerge in the world and the impact of this will be clear to all. The current phase, however, is extremely dangerous and can only be overcome through unity.

U.S. Vetoes European Airbus Sale to Iran

LD2507173191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 25 Jul 91

[Text] America has opposed the sale of seven Airbus aircraft to Iran. According to the French news agency, the American veto on Iran's order was submitted by the State Department in Washington to the ambassadors of the four European countries who are the members of the European Airbus consortium. According to this report the White House prevented the sale of Airbus aircraft to Iran because more than 10 percent of the aircraft parts are manufactured in America.

*Value of Trade With Germany Increasing

91AS1098A London KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 91 p 4

[Text] Seeking wider consumer markets in the Islamic Republic, in recent months Germany has expanded significantly the value of its exports to this country. REUTERS recently reported from Berlin that in the first three months of the current year (January, February and March), the Federal Republic of Germany increased the value of its exports to Iran about 106 percent compared to the same period last year. Quoting a member of the Board of Directors of the German Near East and Middle East Society, this news agency writes that in recent months Germany's exports to Iran have increased so much that this country's merchants have been able to make up for the losses caused by the termination of trade with Iraq.

Based on commercial figures published by the German Near East and Middle East Society, in the first three months of the current year Germany exported various goods, foodstuffs and consumer goods valued at 1.548 million marks (\$885 million) to the Islamic Republic. Experts on German economic affairs believe that if Iran's domestic markets continue to flourish, by the end of the current year the value of the Federal Republic of Germany's exports to Iran will increase to around \$3 billion. The Federal Republic of Germany is now considered Iran's largest trading partner in the world. In exchange for exports to the Islamic Republic of various

consumer and manufactured goods, Germany has purchased limited quantities of dried fruits, raw materials, hides and skins, hand-woven carpets, mined materials and large quantities of crude oil.

Nepal & Bhutan

Students Block Roads, Attack Police in Kathmandu

BK2907151691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1452 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 29 (AFP)—Leftist students blocked roads with burning tyres and pelted police with stones here Monday to protest the arrest of a group of civil servants who had been staging a sit down protest outside a ministry. The students blocked roads leading out of Kathmandu following the arrest of nine civil servants who had been staging a protest outside the General Administration Ministry, officials said.

The incident prompted the Nepali Congress government of Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to say it would open a dialogue with striking civil servants who have been protesting for a month to demand improved pay and conditions.

A Home Ministry source said the students, members of the leftist All Nepal Free Nationalist Students Union, protested for three hours before being dispersed by police baton charges and tear gas. It was not known if any students were arrested.

The students union is backed by the Nepali Communist Party United Marxists and Leninists, the main opposition group in parliament.

Ministry Appeals for Talks

BK3007142891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] Kathmandu, July 30 (AFP)—The Nepalese Ministry of General Administration Tuesday issued an appeal to the Nepal Civil Servants' Organization (NCSO) to send a delegation for talks with the government on current employment problems. Reacting to the appeal an NCSO spokesman said before talks could begin the organization wanted the release of all its members detained under the public offences act and the reinstatement of all those suspended and dismissed for their involvement in the current month-long dispute over pay and conditions.

No official figure has been given for the number of civil servants arrested, dismissed or suspended, but the NCSO spokesman said more than 1,200, including organization president Prem Dangal, had been detained while more than 600 had been suspended and 60 dismissed on disciplinary grounds.

A spokesman for the Nepalese Home Ministry claimed that more than 75 percent of civil servants had returned to work and were ready to wait for the recommendations

of a newly formed pay commission headed by former finance secretary and auditor general Narakanta Adhikari before pressing their demands.

The commission is to examine pay, facilities and allowances of civil servants.

The spokesman said "only about 25 percent of civil servants of non-official grade are in the mood of continuing their agitation because of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) and other extreme left communists who are trying to politicise the civil servants' issue."

More than 40 percent of NCP (UML) MPs are currently touring different districts in the country to highlight what they claim are the irresponsible acts of government and its failure to fulfill the demands of what they describe as hard pressed civil servants.

The Home Ministry spokesman alleged that in many areas the NCP (UML) legislators were telling civil servants to "move ahead we are behind you."

Editorial on Myanmar Regime's Intentions

BK2907102791 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL
in English 14 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "SLORC's Motives"]

[Text] When Myanmar's military authorities held general elections last May, there was growing scepticism over whether the exercise would be free and fair. This was an obvious concern, given the record of the military authorities in suppressing the democratic aspirations of the people of the country expressed in pro-democracy movements in 1988 and 1989. But the outcome of the polls was a surprise. This was so not because the National League for Democracy won an overwhelming majority but because the authorities admitted the result. Sceptics who doubted that the military authorities would transfer power to an elected government were proved right, and more than a year after the NLD's resounding victory the government is still in the control of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC)—a convenient name the military authorities have given themselves.

The SLORC denies that it is against transferring power to the civilian government. What it suggests is that the time is not yet "ripe". It argues that Myanmar has a set of special circumstances which preclude it from immediately handing over power to the victorious party. Even if its arguments were to be accepted, the fact that senior NLD leaders are still under detention while many workers and supporters are currently the victims of sustained persecution makes such protestations tenuous. After all, what kind of argument is it to say that a country or people are not ready for democracy. Such a claim was conveniently used by other authoritarian governments to perpetuate their hold on power, but events in recent

times have only made a mockery out of such an assertion. The rulers in Yangon [Rangoon] appear to be oblivious to this reality, and if not, appear to be pretending so.

Another indication of the SLORC's resistance to transfer power has come in the form of amendments to the country's election law under which many of the candidates who won the elections could be disqualified from taking office and even standing in future elections. And the SLORC has the ultimate say in this regard since the election commission is yet to give its final list of victorious candidates. The intentions of the military rulers do not appear to be in favour of restoring democracy. Similar intentions of many other authoritarian governments proved weak under the onslaught of people's power. The rulers in Yangon would do well to realise the futility of continued suppression of the popular will and come to terms with the wave of democracy that is pervading most of the world today.

Editorial Backs Government Privatization Policy

BK2907110791 Kathmandu THE RISING NEPAL
in English 15 Jul 91 p 4

[Editorial: "Daring Step"]

[Text] The privatization drive, initiated by the developed countries to gain efficiency, has been able to sweep the world in about half a decade. Nepal too has adopted it following other countries in South Asia. Though there was much talk about privatization and its benefits to the economy, no one had taken an initiative that was going to revolutionize the productive sector. It was perhaps the effects of change about which the past was afraid. This year's budget—although it may not be the cure-all for the economic shambles the country is presently in—has been able to chalk out a path for the future and incorporate some important ideas. One of them is privatization. To begin with, three public corporations and five agricultural enterprises are being privatized. This is a daring step. Daring step since once begun, the process cannot be turned back and because the step will be trampling on a lot of vested interests that thrived on the weak spots of government.

There are other private enterprises that directly have a bearing on the functioning of the corporations. A change in the policy of the public company makes these little firms change their ways of functioning. With the privatization of corporations, existence of such firms could be threatened. But, privatization will ensure that they also change their own policies to survive and compete with the newly privatized establishment and contribute to eradicating monopoly from the sector.

Another aspect to the privatization initiative could be the loss of jobs it might bring about. Indiscriminate employment has led to overstaffing of the corporations and is one main reason for their failure to deliver the goods. The government has plans to make the transition

to privatization a smooth one, at least on the employment front. One idea is to have the job losers reinstated somewhere else—by creating new opportunities. Or they can be retained within the enterprise they are in by expanding its services. Also new hirings can be granted a holiday for the moment until the market demands new firms and hence, their services.

For flexibility in the job market, employment should be taken as a by-product of growth and not vice versa. When employment is taken as a constant, then other necessary constants like growth and efficiency of an institution turn into variables; and this is exactly the problem that is ailing the public sector. If flexibility is robbed from the market (including the job market), not only the public sector but all the different sectors of the economy will be in the same position that the corporations are in today.

Pakistan

Iranian Foreign Minister Continues Visit, Talks

Confers With Ishaq Khan on Afghanistan

BK2907124791 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] The visiting Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan in Islamabad today. They discussed bilateral relations and regional and international situation. The two leaders agreed that Pakistan and Iran should make joint efforts for an early political settlement of the Afghanistan problem in accordance with the aspirations of the Afghan people and the [word indistinct] to ensure the return of Afghan refugees to their homes in safety and honor.

Afghanistan Talks Previewed

BK2907162891 Hong Kong AFP in English 1230 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP)—Pakistani and Iranian officials began a two day conference with Sunni and Shi'ite Afghan rebel factions here Monday aimed at discussing ways to end the 13-year-old civil war in Afghanistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and Pakistan Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Akram Zaki are jointly presiding over the meeting, which is also seen as an attempt to resolve differences between the rival Afghan groups, officials here said.

The conference began amid reports that mujahedin attacks had cut off power supplies to Kabul, marking an intensification of rebel operations against the Soviet-backed government.

Mr. Velayati, who arrived here Sunday, said he hoped that the conference would succeed in achieving its goals "that are to the benefit of the Islamic umma (nation)."

Najibullah Lafraie, a spokesman for the Pakistan-based Afghan mujahedin, said the participants would try to give a "joint response" to recent UN peace proposals and also work for "closer relations" between Sunni and Shi'ite factions.

Pakistan backs seven Sunni rebel groups while Iran hosts an alliance of nine small Shi'ite organizations. Since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989, the two rebel camps have had uneasy relations.

Mr. Velayati said there were "positive points" in the UN agenda for ending the conflict which has cost more than a million lives since 1978 and driven five million Afghan refugees to Pakistan and Iran.

The UN plan, announced on May 21, calls for cessation of hostilities and the opening of an intra-Afghan dialogue leading to a transitional administration in Kabul before general elections.

It urges Moscow and Washington to halt delivery of weapons to the warring sides. Pakistan has welcomed the UN proposals.

Some fundamentalist rebel leaders have totally rejected the plan, saying it was a U.S.-inspired conspiracy to prevent the establishment of a truly Islamic government in Kabul.

Other groups have said they would agree to the proposals only if they exclude Kabul's President Najibullah from the peace process.

Sources said a joint statement could be issued at the end of the conference late Tuesday.

Two Afghan leaders have boycotted the meeting, rebel sources said, naming them as Yunis Khales, a Sunni fundamentalist, and Sheikh Asif Mohseni, who leads a small Shi'ite coalition in Pakistan.

International Issues Discussed

BK2907161591 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Jul 91

[Text] At the bilateral talks between Pakistan and Iran in Islamabad today, matters of regional and international interest were reviewed. At the talks, the Iranian delegation was led by Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, and the Pakistani side by Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki. Both sides reviewed in detail the latest situation prevailing in occupied Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Palestine. Other matters which came under discussion at the talks include the convening of a meeting of the economic cooperation organization in Tehran by the end of this year and coordination between the two countries at international fora like Islamic Conference Organization, the Nonaligned Movement, and the United Nations. Both sides expressed satisfaction

over the growing bilateral relations and expressed the hope that the fraternal ties will further improve in the years to come.

Later, both the delegations exchanged views on matters of regional importance with particular reference to Afghanistan.

Afterwards, talks were held with various Afghan mujahedin groups in (Timishiq).

Additional Talks Held

BK3007051291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network
in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] In search of a political solution to the Afghan problem, tripartite talks among Pakistan, Iran, and Afghan mujahedin organizations were held in Islamabad last night. Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Pakistani Secretary General for Foreign Affairs Akram Zaki, and Afghan mujahedin representatives from Iran and Pakistan took part in the talks.

Earlier at the bilateral talks, Pakistan and Iran emphasized that the Afghan people should be given the right to rule the country in accordance with their ambition. Iranian and Pakistani delegations expressed concern over the gross violations of human rights and atrocities against innocent Kashmiris in occupied Kashmir.

The Pakistani secretary general for foreign affairs hosted a banquet in honor of the Iranian delegation and Afghan mujahedin representatives last evening.

Velayati Sees 'Turning Point'

LD3007095591 Tehran IRNA in English 0702 GMT
30 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 30, IRNA—The first quadrilateral session of officials from Iran, Pakistan and leaders of the Afghan mujahedin based in Tehran and Peshawar was held here Monday night after hours of delay due to unexpected prolonged discussion at experts level. Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who arrived here Sunday at the head of a political delegation, represents Tehran in the talks which is initiated by Tehran to find a solution to the Afghan issue.

Addressing the session, Velayati said it is a "turning point" in the history of the Islamic jihad of the Afghan people adding "the heroic nation of Afghanistan can determine their own destiny with full knowledge far from any mischievous foreign interference." He reiterated, "the Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes any solution to the Afghan issue based on the will of the Afghan Muslim people. Furthermore, Tehran is prepared to employ all its potentials for settling the Afghan issue and forming an Islamic, nonaligned and independent government representative of all strata of the Muslim nation of Afghanistan."

Stressing the need for increased political efforts of the Afghan mujahedin, Velayati added that the recent developments in Afghanistan and the political activities at international level speak of an urgent need for coordinated political efforts by the Afghan mujahedin alongside military activities. He added that at present a vacuum is felt in terms of political efforts.

Assessing as "positive" the U.N. chief's five-point plan on the Afghan issue, Velayati said the plan provides a proper basis for political efforts for settling the Afghan crisis.

Pakistani State Minister for Foreign Affairs [title as received] Akram Zaki who represents Islamabad told the session that at a time little international attention is paid to the Afghan issue, Iran and Pakistan continue to help their Afghan brothers settle the crisis.

Afghan mujahedin leaders including Borhaneddin Rabbani, Gilani, Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi, Qotbeddin, political deputy of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Qazi Amin and Forutan representing Mowlavi Mansur also addressed the session. The mujahedin leaders thanked both Tehran and Islamabad for their continued support for the mujahedin and refugees and called for continuation of their assistance till achievement of the final victory and establishment of a true Islamic government in Afghanistan.

The mujahedin leaders expressed their views on different aspects of the Afghan issue, Perez de Cuellar's five-point plan in particular.

In conclusion of the session, on Velayati's suggestion, a nine-member committee comprising of mujahedin leaders based in Iran and Pakistan was formed to continue discussions at experts level. The next and final session is scheduled for Tuesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, Velayati in a dinner banquet given by Zaki Monday night, announced that Iran and Pakistan are determined through employment of global potentials and international organizations, to help the Afghan people elect their desired government through a fair election. Describing as fruitless any efforts made to solve the Afghan issue without taking into account views of mujahedin, Velayati underlined the need for unity among Afghan mujahedin and the Islamic nations.

President of the interim Afghan government based in Peshawar Sebghatollah Mojaddadi expressing gratitude to Tehran and Islamabad and appealed to both countries to continue their efforts to settle the Afghan crisis and help formation of an Islamic government. He expressed the conviction that the quadrilateral session will be a major step towards solving the Afghan issue. He also urged all Afghan parties not to put individual or group interests above those of the country.

Tehran-based spokesman of Afghanistan Islamic Unity Party Hojjat-ol-Eslam Mosavi said his party was ready to accept any decision adopted in the quadrilateral session.

AFP—Confusion, Dissent Mark Talks

BK3007100091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1918 GMT
30 Jul 91

[Text] Islamabad, July 29 (AFP)—An atmosphere of confusion and dissent clouded the opening of a conference of Pakistani and Iranian officials and Afghan rebel factions here Monday to discuss ways to end the 13-year-old war in Afghanistan.

Mojahedin sources said the talks were under way but press photographers officially invited to an inaugural session returned empty-handed from the foreign office.

A government statement said the delegations headed by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and Pakistan Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Akram Zaki had consultations with rebel leaders at an undisclosed place.

"The afternoon was devoted by the two delegations to consultations with various parties of Afghan mojahedin based in Peshawar and Teheran," the statement said.

The venue may have been shifted at the last moment, the Afghan sources said adding the talks being attended by both Sunni and Shiite rebel factions had "definitely" begun.

Earlier, the Pakistani statement said, Mr. Velayati and Mr. Zaki held bilateral discussions ahead of the conference covering cooperation and coordination between the two countries on various issues.

A spokesman of the pro-Western Mahaz resistance faction said its leader Seyyed Ahmed Gilani was attending the talks, but observed that there was "a lot of confusion." He did not elaborate.

Sources from the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar said their party and another Islamic group, the Ittehad, had serious reservations about the contents of a draft declaration which refers to the recent U.N. peace plan.

The draft had been drawn up by Iranian and Pakistani officials, they said, refusing to disclose what the differences were, but adding the proposed communique was "ambiguous" and "not feasible."

Hezb and Ittehad have already rejected the U.N. initiative and called for the continuation of their holy war against the Soviet-backed Kabul government.

The U.N. proposals announced May 21 call for a transitional administration in Kabul leading to elections and the formation of a broad based government acceptable to the majority of the Afghan people.

The meeting began amid reports that mojahedin attacks had cut off power supplies to Kabul, marking an intensification of rebel operations against the Soviet-backed government.

Observers said all conferences gathering mojahedin in the past were characterized by similar confusion because of the conflicting views in the faction-ridden camps of the rebels.

They recalled the Rawalpindi gathering in February 1989 in the aftermath of the Soviet troop pullout from Afghanistan which ended in a complete disagreement between Teheran-based Shiite groups and those operating from Pakistani soil.

Mr. Velayati, who arrived here Sunday, said he hoped the conference would succeed in achieving its goals "that are to the benefit of the Islamic umma (nation)."

Najibollah Lafraie, a spokesman for the Pakistan-based Afghan mojahedin, said the participants would try to give a "joint response" to recent U.N. peace proposals and also work for "closer relations" between Sunni and Shiite factions.

Pakistan backs seven Sunni rebel groups while Iran hosts an alliance of nine small Shiite organizations. Since the Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan in February 1989, the two rebel camps have had uneasy relations.

Mr. Velayati said there were "positive points" in the U.N. agenda for ending the conflict which has cost more than a million lives since 1978 and driven five million Afghan refugees to Pakistan and Iran.

Three pro-Western Sunni organizations—those led by Mr. Gilani, Sebgatollah Mojaddedi and Nabi Mohammedi—have publicly said they would agree to the U.N. proposals. Sources said they were ready to compromise with the pro-Iran factions in the Hezb-e Wahdat alliance on the question of Shiite representation in a common body.

Later, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said the formal talks began at 11 p.m. (1800 GMT) at the foreign office.

Mr. Zaki and Mr. Velayati led their respective delegations, and representatives of Afghan mojahedin based in Peshawar and Teheran were also present, it said.

Earlier, in bilateral talks, Iran and Pakistan said the people of Afghanistan should be "allowed to form a government in accordance with their wishes," an official statement here said.

"This government should reflect the Islamic and democratic aspirations of the people," it added.

Sri Lanka**Security 'Beefed Up' in Batticaloa, Amparai**

BK2807095691 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English
0840 GMT 28 Jul 91

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 28 (LANKAPUVATH)—Security has been beefed up to protect isolated villages in the eastern Batticaloa and Amparai districts following technical sources bearing an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] plan to attack the more vulnerable villages in the two districts as a diversionary tactic to ease military pressure on the terrorists at Elephant Pass, where the LTTE is facing its most decisive defeat with 950 of its cadres already dead.

Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that the landmine attack on a Special Task Force (STF) commando patrol at Kanchikudichchiaru in Amparai this morning, where one officer was killed and nine commandos were wounded, and Saturday's claymore mine and small arms fire ambush of a security forces railway line picket between Chenkaladi and Sittandi in Batticaloa on Saturday, in which eight soldiers and a TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] member accompanying them were killed, were part of this plan.

Troops Advancing Toward Camp Amid Heavy Fire

BK3007114491 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 30 Jul 91

[Text] The Operation Balawegaya task force is reported to be inching through mine fields toward the Elephant Pass camp amid heavy LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] resistance. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that ground troops backed by air cover progressed half a kilometer on Sunday from Mulliyan at the southern end of Thondaimannar Lagoon. The troops consolidated their positions last night and resumed advancing yesterday. The sources said that according to reports received from the battle front, 50 LTTE terrorists were killed by Operation Balawegaya troops on Sunday. A hundred and fifty more LTTE cadres were killed in the abortive 10-hour attack on the Elephant Pass camp which commenced on Saturday night and ended on Sunday morning. Forty-one bodies of the dead terrorists were recovered by defending troops along with 41 weapons, including a light machine gun.

Meanwhile, Balawegaya troops are reported to have discovered a large number of terrorist dummies with guns fixed to them on the front lines and in other [words indistinct] successful LTTE ploy. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that LTTE leader Prabhakaran is reported to be making a frantic search for Padaman, a terrorist leader from Trincomalee, who has vanished with a pot of gold worth several millions of rupees. The treasure has been buried in the sands near a kovil [temple] at Vettilaikerni where the Operation Balawegaya troops have established a beachhead.

Editorial Urges LTTE To Take Part in Elections

BK2907142591 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 22 Jul 91 p 6

[Editorial: "Bullets or Ballots?"]

[Text] Speaking at Anuradhapura on Saturday, President Ranasinghe Premadasa has repeated the offer that would give the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] an opportunity to face an election in the northeast that would enable it to demonstrate to both the country and the world whether its claim to be the "sole representative" of the Tamils of that area is true or not.

What the President was saying was not something new. It is well known that the government has always been willing to give the Tigers the opportunity of acquiring legitimacy through a democratic election. If the LTTE really enjoys the support it claims among the Tamil people of the Northeast, why does it fight shy of an election?

There are other Tamil groups too which, though militarily not as strong as the Tigers, claim various degrees of support. These groups and parties would like to stand at an election and, as Mr. Premadasa rightly said, it is up to the LTTE to substantiate its claim of overwhelming support of the people at such an election.

There will be many people in this country who will not favour any kind of negotiations with the LTTE. They are acutely aware of what happened on June 10 last year when the Tigers chose to break off 14-months of peace talks by turning their guns on the police in the Batticaloa district.

The cost of the civil war that has resulted, both in human lives and limbs as well as in economic terms, is too well known to require elaboration. During the long months of the peace talks, the LTTE secured many tactical advantages. They not only re-grouped and rearmed after taking a thrashing from the Indian Peace Keeping Force (IPKF), but also obtained the dismantling of various military camps and installations in the northern and eastern provinces.

In the light of such a situation, a substantial body of public opinion in this country will object to any more talks with a group which cannot be trusted. But there is no getting away from the fact that this debilitating war can drag on endlessly. It appears to be a "no win" situation for both sides. And while the battles are fought, as in Elephant Pass this very moment, lives of young men on both sides of the lines are snuffed out tragically and the toll of the wounded and the maimed keep rising relentlessly.

That is why President Premadasa is determined to secure a peace. He understands very well that this is not a time for searching out rights and wrongs. Rights and wrongs there will be on both sides. It would be profitless to throw these at each other's faces. Peace is what matters and the biggest battle that must be won is securing an honourable peace.

The tragedy of this nation right now is that the LTTE does not appear to desire an end to the fighting. The Tiger psyche seems to be to keep the pot on the boil, regardless of the consequences to the very people they

claim to represent. That it why it is necessary that the Tamil people themselves, particularly those of the North and the East, must make the weight of public opinion turn the LTTE towards seeing reason.

There is no doubt that the vast majority of the people of Sri Lanka have learned the lessons of the last ten years. They will support a just settlement of a problem that should never have been allowed to assume the present frightening proportions. But there are no signs that the LTTE will agree to the election that President Premadasa has proposed.

There can be only one reason for that—that the Tigers do not enjoy the support of the people, or at least the majority of the people. There can be no other explanation for their insistence in calling the shots with bullets rather than ballots.

If there is no change of heart on the part of the Tigers, the war will go on as it must. The whole nation will continue to pay a price in blood and economic terms with the people of the northeast who have already suffered so much for so long paying more than others. That is why we repeat that it is they who must make the Tigers see reason.